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Soldier killed apparently by friendly fire during Gaza attack

Palestinian area commander: We'll take necessary measures

ALON PINKAS

FIRST Sgt. Shlomo Sheetreet was killed yesterday apparently by friendly fire during an attack on an IDF observation post north of Kibbutz Nahal Oz, on the border between Israel and the autonomous Gaza strip.

Shortly before midnight Sunday, shots were fired at a six-man platoon on observation duty near Nahal Oz. Two soldiers were on guard, while the other four slept.

The two guards and two other soldiers awakened by the shooting returned fire. During the exchange of fire, Sheetreet was fatally shot in the head.

Other IDF units arrived at the scene and immediately began pursuing the attackers, who fled into the Gaza Strip. The incident occurred in an area where an electronic fence is under construction.

The IDF notified the joint Israeli-Palestinian District Cooperation and Coordination Office. The army also directly informed the Palestinian Police commander in the area, Col. Wajih Abu Gharbieh. An officer at the Khan Yunis police station told news agencies that the Palestinian Police would "take the necessary measures, because we are committed to the agreement."

Abu Gharbieh told The Associated Press that "we are expecting such violations. Palestinians and Israelis are mingled on the roads and it is very difficult to have complete control of the situation."

Under the Cairo agreement, the Palestinian Police is responsible for apprehending, then prosecuting any individual directly or indirectly linked to such an attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but sources in the Southern Command said it is probably Hamas elements who carried out the attack.

Army sources confirmed that Sheetreet was apparently shot by one of his comrades, although no definite conclusion has been reached. His family objected to an autopsy, and reasserted their objection to a Hadera court.

"It is difficult to determine the development of the encounter until we complete the preliminary debriefings of the soldiers involved," said an army source.

Col. Shaul, commander of the northern section of the Gaza Strip, told reporters that the soldiers had followed all regulations. "From an investigation at the scene and from the testimony of the soldiers, several shots were fired, some on full automatic and some singly. We're talking about very experienced soldiers who served in some of the most elite units in the IDF."

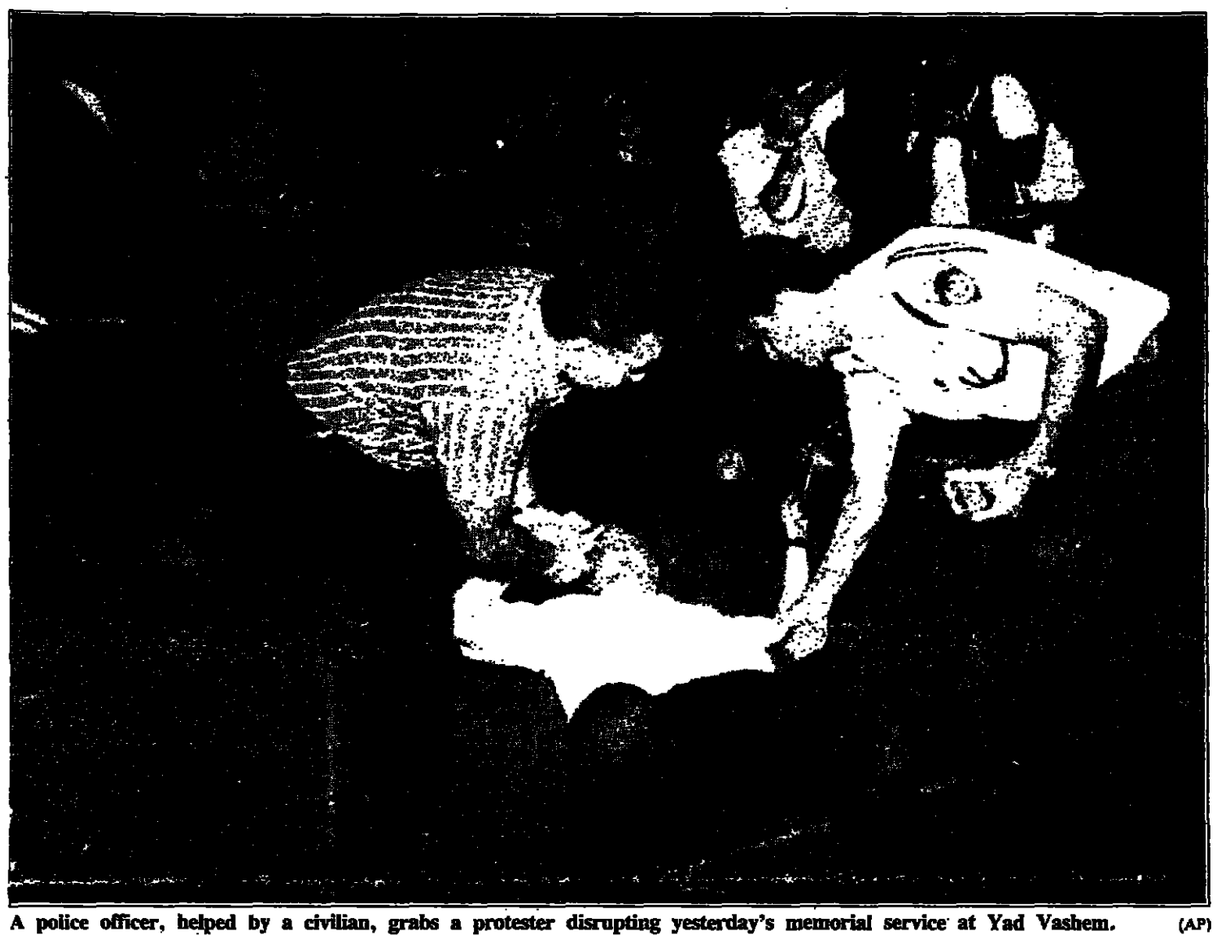
Asked if would not be better to station soldiers on compulsory service in the area between Jewish settlements and the autonomous region, Shaul said he saw nothing lax in the performance of the reservists.

Sheetreet, 25, was born in Givat Ada, and served in the army for four and a half years. After his discharge, he worked for the Israel Electric Corporation.

His brother, Maimon, said Shlomo was a supporter of the peace process, a quiet and introverted type, who "will always be remembered for his smile, love of life, and being the captain of the Givat-Ada football team. Sheetreet is survived by his parents and six brothers and sisters. He was buried last night in Givat Ada.



Shlomo Sheetreet



A police officer, helped by a civilian, grabs a protester disrupting yesterday's memorial service at Yad Vashem. (AP)

Gays' Yad Vashem service disrupted

BATSHEVA TSUR

A VIOLENT fracas broke out yesterday in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance as demonstrators broke up a commemoration ceremony being held by a group of Jewish gays and lesbians.

About a dozen protesters, one a Holocaust survivor, were waiting with placards as the buses carrying 150 participants in the European Regional Conference of Lesbian and Gay Jews pulled up. Some made their way into the Ohel Yizkor and stood among the crowd.

As a Reform rabbi tried to lead prayers and group members, many of them survivors' children, attempted to lay wreaths, screams of "God save us," and "Blasphemy" echoed through the hall, drowning out the service.

Avigdor Eskin of Moshav Betar and three other demonstrators rushed around the hall, whose floor is inscribed with names of concentrations camps such as Sobibor, Westebork, and Jasenovac. Police and attendants gave chase, wrestling with them as numerous cameramen shot the melee and the visitors linked arms or clutched each other, singing partisan Hannah Senes's song "Eli, Eli."

After the demonstrators had been evicted, a Reform rabbi and cantor started reciting the *El Malei Rahamim* prayer, adapted to include "our lesbian sisters and gay brothers." At this point, an elderly man ran out from behind and, screeching wildly, snatched the rabbi's notes and dashed them to the floor.

As the gathering responded with the partisans' anthem, the demonstrator collapsed onto the hard floor, shrieking at them to get out. It took four policemen to remove him.

Throughout the disturbances, the group continued with the service, kindling the flame, laying wreaths, and reciting the kaddish – most of them sobbing quietly.

"I'm stunned, shocked," said Susan, who had tried to read a prayer. "My partner lost almost her entire family in the Holocaust. My grandmother's family was wiped out. This is a memorial site and I did not expect people to desecrate it."

Jack Gilbert, head of the Jewish Lesbian and Gay Helpline in London, said his mother had left Berlin on the *Kindertransport* in 1939 and he has spent much of his life teaching the Holocaust. "I'm very, very saddened," he said. "A person killed by the Nazis deserves respect whether Jewish, gypsy, or gay."

Referring to an advertisement in Friday's *Jerusalem Post*, placed by an American rabbinical group, Gilbert added: "It was very irresponsible of the paper to publish it. It is an incitement to kill homosexuals [the ad quoted a talmudic injunction of the death penalty for homosexual intercourse – BT]."

Rick Sholl, media liaison of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, added: "One need look no further than this memorial room to see the dangers and ugliness of unbridled and irrational hatred."

The demonstrators felt it was the visitors who had desecrated the site. Said the Moscow-born Eskin:

"We wanted them to leave very sad. We accomplished this."

Keep Clalit running, Ramon warns Rabin

Health fund executives threaten to resign

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK HAIM Ramon put his foot down yesterday and forbade the selling of any Histadrut asset before he assumes office as its secretary-general.

Ramon sharply attacked Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, whom he called responsible for Kupat Holim Clalit's financial crisis, and demanded the Treasury continue the flow of money to the health fund until he takes office.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called Shohat and Ramon in for an urgent meeting to find ways to solve the crisis and enable Kupat Holim to continue operating. At the meeting, Shohat threatened to put Clalit into receivership unless the Histadrut sells off some of its assets to raise the money to keep it afloat. Ramon reiterated his opposition.

Meanwhile, Clalit's executive council threatened to resign if "a basis that will allow the health fund to function satisfactorily is not found" by June 15.

The council will meet on June 14 to reach a final decision. After hearing from Director-General Avigdor Kaplan that the health fund can no longer pay its bills, the council said it could no longer bear responsibility for running the organization. If no solution is found within two weeks, the council will turn responsibility over to the Histadrut and the government.

It added that it does not object to regarding Clalit's assets, "including its hospitals," as part of the financial solution.



Outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld agreed from his hospital bed to sell Histadrut assets, but noted that Ramon's approval is required. Ramon, however, said he would not meet anyone, talk to anyone, or make any move in this direction until he officially takes over.

In his first statement concerning Histadrut affairs since his landslide victory May 10, Ramon accused Shohat of being directly responsible – together with the Histadrut and Kupat Holim management – for the crisis. They, Ramon told a press conference, knew of the looming collapse, but hid it from the public for partisan political reasons, hoping to boost Haberfeld's chances in the election.

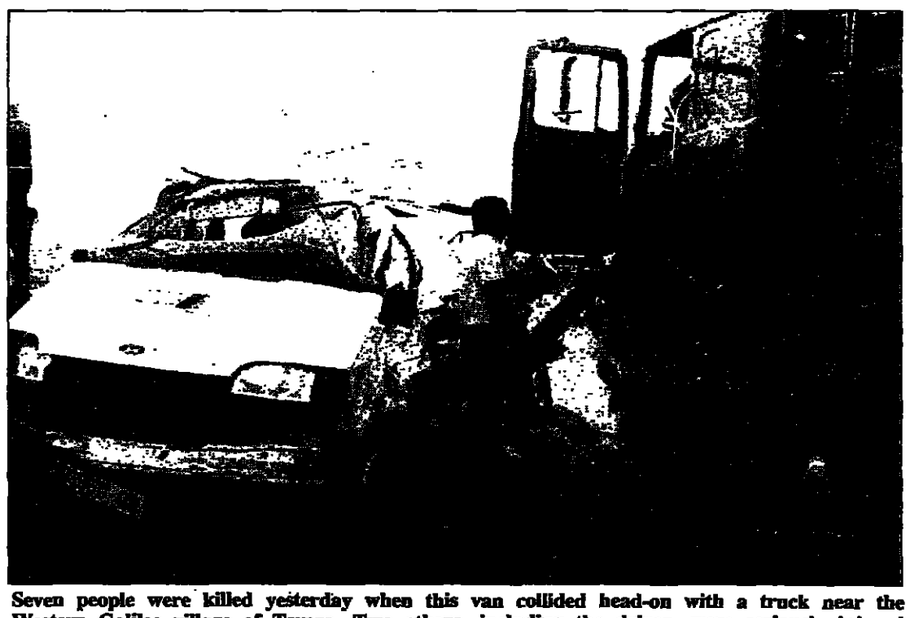
Ramon warned the Histadrut leadership not to "sell, buy, or make any move until I take over." He promised that the goings on at Kupat Holim in the first half of this year will "star in the next state comptroller's report."

He demanded the Treasury continue to fund Kupat Holim, as it did before the elections, stating that he expects it to be in full working order when he enters office.

"How come there were always enough millions for Kupat Holim before the elections, and now [Shohat] lacks the NIS 200 million necessary to keep it going? He should pretend the elections did not happen, and will take place in July. I'm sure if he does so, he'll find the money easily."

Slamming Shohat's idea to put Kupat Holim into receivership, which he branded as politically motivated, Ramon said, "Why would a receiver not need a few hundred million to pay suppliers and wages? In fact, the minister knows that putting Kupat Holim in the hands of a receiver would cost more. So for a couple of hundred million, Shohat is willing to endanger the entire health system and put it into a frenzy, when he himself is responsible for the catastrophe."

(Continued on Page 2)



Seven people were killed yesterday when this van collided head-on with a truck near the Western Galilee village of Tamra. Two others, including the driver, were seriously injured and another was lightly hurt. Witnesses said they had noticed the van weaving back and forth across the road, and it appeared that the driver, who may have fallen asleep, had lost control. They said he was driving on the shoulder, when he suddenly veered at great speed into the middle of the road and hit an oncoming truck. The dead were all between 17 and 21. Five were from Tamra and two from nearby Kabul. (Text: Yigal Kotzer; Photo: Ronni Schitzer/Ma'ariv)

Husseini: I won't let us be pushed out of J'lem

JON IMMANUEL

FAISAL Husseini returned from the weekend meeting of the Palestinian Authority in Tunis to declare yesterday that he would not let Israel push Palestinian political institutions out of east Jerusalem, the hoped for capital of an independent Palestinian state.

The editorials of Jerusalem's two Arabic dailies also warned Israel not to forget Palestinian claims in Jerusalem in what appeared to be a concerted effort to keep Jerusalem on the agenda during the two-year interim period until final status talks begin.

Husseini has said that he will sit in the Palestinian Authority only to deal with Jerusalem issues, but his appointment in this capacity is not been finalized.

He spoke in the forecourt of Orient House, the building at the center of a controversy over Palestinian political rights in the capital.

"We feel there is a campaign against the existence of the Orient House and Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. We are here in Jerusalem as a people living on its own land with its own institutions. We are not the side which will try to force the reality on the ground, and we are not in need of forcing this reality," Husseini said.

"Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem will go an as they are, because the whole issue of Jerusalem will be discussed in the next stage of negotiations. No one has the right to touch, to weaken these institutions and their activities."

Israel has demanded that Palestinian institutions connected with the Palestinian Authority be shifted to Jericho or Gaza to avoid the impression that Jerusalem is part of the authority. These include PECDAR, the recently established Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. It applied for seven phone lines in Jerusalem and was told it would receive them only in Jericho, according to PECDAR economist Mohammed Shtayeh.

Most Palestinian political institutions have moved out of Orient House, which wants to remain a venue for visiting foreign politicians and to maintain a quasi-diplomatic immunity from police.

The daily *Al-Kuds* echoed Husseini's position in an editorial saying, "Palestinian political activity here is natural and legitimate. Israel is the only country that accepts the Israeli position on Jerusalem."

Palestinian Police chief to Hamas: Stop violence

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Police chief Maj.-Gen. Nasser Yusef has issued his first written warning to Hamas to end vigilante killings, saying "we are going to pursue the killers" of two men found strangled last weekend.

The warning was distributed yesterday in a leaflet to Palestinian journalists in Gaza after Hamas already had issued one promising to "stop killing collaborators for the time being" and to let police deal with them instead.

Yusef's leaflet made clear that the Hamas leaflet did not go far enough. He described their self-declared mujahadeen as "gangs operating without any right."

Last night, Israel Radio said several Fatah Hawk police conscripts quit yesterday, claiming there were informers among the other conscripts, an accusation which is likely to deepen enmity between police and armed opposition groups.

Yusef's warning to Hamas came after several recent statements by other security and law enforcement people which downplayed Hamas violence and said that political factions would not be forcibly disarmed.

Yesterday, more than 3,000 unarmed Hamas supporters, many of them from outside Jericho, marched through the town in a peaceful demonstration.

Herb Keinon adds:

Jordan Valley settlers were outraged yesterday that Route 90 through Jericho was closed for part of the day because of the Hamas demonstration.

Tami Atiya, a spokeswoman for the Jordan Valley Settlements Committee, said residents were told by the IDF that the road was closed because of fear for the safety of Jews traveling through the city. "It is inconceivable that the lives of the residents in the Jordan Valley will be affected everyday by the whims of one group or another inside Jericho," said committee head David Elbayani.

Shots fired at Kfar Darom

SHOTS were fired last night at the homes of Kfar Darom residents from a Palestinian car passing the Gaza Strip settlement, settlers reported.

At about 9 p.m., they said, a burst of gunfire came from a convoy of Palestinian cars towards the homes of some residents, causing no injuries or damage.

Settlers said they had received assurances from the IDF that Palestinian cars would not be permitted to pass on the roads adjoining Gaza settlements. (Ifim)

Toxic waste mounting at Ramat Hovav

LIAT COLLINS

SOME 35,000 tons of hazardous waste have piled up at the Ramat Hovav toxic waste dump with no means for its disposal, the environment minister's adviser, Aharon Vardi, told the Knesset interior and environment Committee yesterday.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has ordered the purchase of an incinerator capable of destroying 15,000 tons of hazardous waste a year, but the ministry plans for all incineration to be carried out at another site within four years, Vardi said.

Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) was surprised to learn from ministry Director-General Yisrael Peleg the government had decided not to privatize the site. Matza said the toxic waste buried at the site threatens water sources and expressed concern over the recent discovery of radioactive waste at the site.

Matza was further shocked to discover that hazardous waste is being imported, despite the fact Israel has signed the Basel Treaty which restricts the international movement of this type of waste. The subject was raised by MK Naomi Blumental (Likud).

In response, the Environment Ministry's legal adviser, Boaz Oren, said the treaty has not yet been ratified. After regulations have been authorized, no hazardous material will enter the country without the ministry's permission, Oren said, but in the meantime there is no restriction. He noted that although the treaty was signed in 1989, it was only ratified by the EC last month.

Matza asked that the ministry establish regulations as soon as possible to close the current loophole.

In other matters, MK Esther Salmovitz (Yi'ud) suggested the public be made aware of the dangers of living next to industrial areas dealing with hazardous materials. Matza asked the ministry to prepare a list of factories around the country which might endanger nearby residents.

On a different note, MK Yoram Lass (Labor) asked about river pollution. There is no waterway in the country which has not been polluted by sewage and industrial waste, Peleg said, adding, however, that river rehabilitation is high on the ministry's list of priorities.

Sarid slams Bellinson, Page 3

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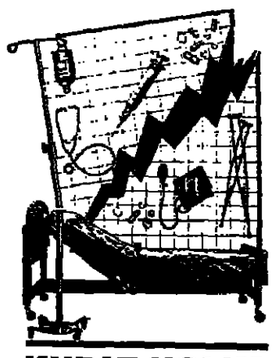
Desperate Kupat Holim Clalit freezes all contracts, cancels ads

JUDY SIEGEL

KUPAT Holim Clalit has frozen all contracts and has canceled all of its advertisements, due to its intensifying financial crisis. The Histadrut's health fund also announced a 50 agorot price hike for medications starting tomorrow.

Clalit has halted its advertising campaign aimed at attracting young people, and another campaign boasting that it is "the safest" health fund. The two campaigns cost the fund hundreds of thousands of shekels.

The charge for the cheapest medications (such as Nussidex, Optalgin, vitamin C, Ventolin, Rafapen and Ahiston) has been hiked from NIS 2.50 to NIS 3 per 20-pill portion. The price of the moderately expensive drugs (such as erythromycin, Moxipen and Voltaren) will cost NIS 4.50 for 10 tablets. Drugs for chronically ill patients will cost NIS 9 for 90 or 120 tablets, depending on the type. Medications will continue to be free for patients with AIDS or on dialysis, hemophiliacs, cancer and tuberculosis patients and organ-transplant recipients.



KUPAT HOLIM IN CRISIS

The health fund says the Histadrut is not considering an increase in membership fees at this point, because Clalit members of higher incomes are already paying the highest fees of all the health funds.

Clalit's hospitals and clinics around the country have reported only mild shortages of medications due to the freeze on contracts with suppliers and the tremendous shortfall in funds. However, serious shortages are expected to appear within a week.

Meanwhile, Clalit's spokesman said the health fund is "extremely pleased" with the decision to make MK Dr. Ephraim Sneh health minister. "He is the suitable person for the job at this time," the spokesman said yesterday.

Clalit officials, including chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli and director-general Avigdor Kaplan (who last week announced his resignation) met in Jerusalem yesterday with Health Ministry director-general Prof. Mordechai Shani, who asked for details on the health fund's expenditures.

Michaeli said yesterday in the Histadrut central committee meeting that part of the health fund's deficit results from the fact that the Histadrut has not yet transferred NIS 240 million in membership fees for 1993 and 1994.

What is receivership?

RECEIVERSHIP means that a business is in trouble and cannot meet its liabilities. The receiver is appointed to run the business as a going concern with a view to nursing it back to financial health.

Previously outstanding debts to creditors are frozen until the receiver can come to an arrangement with the creditors to repay them. Employees are paid and newly incurred obligations continue to be met.

The business, in essence, starts with a clean slate.

Snag delays approval of health bill

DAN IZENBERG

A LAST-minute snag yesterday prevented Amir Peretz, chairman of the special committee to legislate the national health insurance bill, from approving its final draft.

Peretz called for another meeting today to vote on changes in three of the bill's 75 clauses, which relate to the imposition of a 0.8 percent "human services" tax. The tax, which will go to the owners of each health fund, was established primarily to help the Histadrut.

Peretz said he hoped to complete committee approval of the bill today and begin the debate in the plenum tonight or tomorrow.

The snag was largely technical: Legal advisers representing the National Insurance Institute, which is to collect the tax, and the Justice Ministry, demanded clarifications.

Neither Peretz's original proposal nor the changes introduced by the legal experts satisfied the Likud faction, which issued a statement declaring it would "vote against the national health insurance law in its deceitful form, which is aimed at preserving the Histadrut bureaucracy at the expense of the citizens."

Likud MKs threatened to stall the legislation by declaring that the "human service" tax was a new subject which could not be included in the bill. If they carry out the threat, the house committee will have to rule on the appeal.

The Likud was not mollified by Peretz's announcement that the 'human services' tax would only be in force for one year.

Opposition MKs vehemently opposed the "human services" tax, claiming that its only purpose is to prop up the corrupt Histadrut. "This is actually a 'Histadrut bureaucracy welfare tax,'" charged Naomi Blumenthal (Likud). "There has never been a situation in which the government has collected a tax for a voluntary organization."

She accused Haim Ramon of hypocrisy, claiming that he had not supported the tax until he was elected Histadrut secretary-general.

Ramon rejected this, saying he had supported the Shohat compromise before the Histadrut election because it severed the link between the Histadrut and Kupat Holim Clalit, without jeopardizing the existence of the Histadrut.

He stressed that the 'human services' tax is a stop-gap measure to be replaced as quickly as possible by a labor union tax which will apply only to union members.

Earlier, the committee approved all the other 71 clauses of the bill, as drafted by the committee and presented to the plenum last March. Paragraph 4, the controversial proposal severing the link between the Histadrut and its health fund, which caused a severe split in the Labor Party and led to the defection of Ramon and the end of Labor's 70-year hegemony in the Histadrut, passed without the slightest whimper of protest.

NEWSLINE
with ELI HURVITZ

Hurvitz is the CEO of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries

Teva is one of Kupat Holim Clalit's biggest creditors. How much does the health fund owe the company?

We are owed more than $60 million.

Are you still supplying the fund with products?

For the last few weeks we have been supplying much less – only what is necessary – intravenous solutions, dialysis equipment, and anti-cancer medicines.

Teva has taken a lien on some of the fund's assets. What are these?

Some of their properties, and the mortgage on Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava.

Under what circumstances would you try to sell the hospital?

I hope before [it comes to] that we'll get our money back but if worse comes to worse we won't hesitate to sell.

Who might the buyer be?

If the hospital is needed and its services are necessary there will be someone who will be ready to operate it.

What impact will Kupat Holim's debt have on Teva's profitability?

Until now there has been no impact whatsoever because consumption remains the same. We sell much more through private pharmacies which have an arrangement with Kupat Holim, so it has not affected us at all. The sick fund is an important and respectable client by it represents only 10-12 percent of our business. Whatever they do not buy, we sell to the private sector in the same quantity.

Rachel Neiman

Rabin promises Peres that Beilin will be Labor's next minister

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that the most he can do to promote Peres's deputy Yossi Beilin is to appoint him minister-without-portfolio.

The *Post* has learned that in Rabin's most recent phone conversation with Peres, who is currently in South America, it was agreed that it would be Beilin and not MK Avraham Burg who will be slated for the next ministerial appointment.

Rabin also stressed that he will not appoint another minister until Shas re-enters the coalition. He told Peres he hopes that might happen next week, but could be delayed by MK Yosef Azran's intention to stay in the opposition.

Peres is reportedly very miffed by Rabin's fait accompli in appointing Ephraim Sneh health minister in his absence, without at the same time compensating the pro-Peres forces with a portfolio of their own.

The consensus among the ultra-dovish "gang of five" in the Labor Party is that Beilin will not enter the government any time soon unless Peres strongly pushes for him when he returns to Israel tomorrow.

The "five" include Beilin, Burg, Haggai Merom, Yael Dayan and Nawaf Massalha. On the sidelines are MKs Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital, once members of the same grouping, who left to challenge Labor in the Histadrut. The three may rejoin the five in a single parliamentary caucus, since they have not been formally expelled from the Labor Party Knesset faction.

Beilin has gone on record as refusing to become minister-without-portfolio or to have an information ministry created for him. He has hinted that he would prefer that the energy portfolio be taken from Moshe Shahal, who also has the police portfolio. But Rabin is said to have rejected the idea outright.

Burg, meanwhile, is pointing out in private that he came third in popularity in the party primaries and that it is therefore his turn to be appointed minister.

Hizbullah threatens to hit Israeli targets abroad

DAVID RUDGE
and news agencies

HIZBULLAH leaders have issued a blatant threat to hit Israeli targets abroad in retaliation for the kidnapping of Believers Resistance leader Mustafa Dirani, according to Lebanese newspaper reports.

The Beirut newspapers yesterday quoted Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Fadlallah as saying that the "struggle is now worldwide and is not limited in time or space."

"It is wrong to debate the internal responsibility for the kidnapping. The real mission is how to retaliate," Fadlallah was quoted as saying.

"Peres says that the Zionists arm is long. I thought our holy fighters have already taught him whose arm is longer when they reached the Israelis in Argentina."

The newspapers also quoted another Hizbullah leader, deputy secretary-general Shejkh Naim Kassem, as saying that the "battlefield with Israel is now wide open."

Hizbullah has also harshly criticized UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali for failing to condemn Dirani's kidnapping and offering to mediate in the affair.

Another Shi'ite Moslem militant leader suggested yesterday that airman Ron Arad, missing in Lebanon for eight years, may have been killed in 1989 by captors enraged by Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon.

"It is possible that Arad has died or has been killed," Sheik Subhi Tufeili, a former secretary-general of Hizbullah said in an interview published by the newspaper *Ad-Diyar*.

"His whereabouts became a mystery about the same time of the aggression on Maydoun," said Tufeili, referring to the southern Shi'ite village that was raided by Israeli helicopter gunships.

"His guards could have killed him in an hour of rage over the Maydoun aggression," said Tufeili, who served as Hizbullah's top leader from 1987 to 1990.

Tufeili said that during his term Hizbullah and Iran had launched a thorough search for Arad, "which means he is not with Hizbullah or with the Iranians."



Palestinian prisoners released yesterday by the IDF and the Prisons Service cheer as they enter the Gaza Strip. Hundreds were freed as part of a projected release of up to 5,000 prisoners stipulated by the Cairo agreement. Army sources stressed the prisoners were all from PLO organizations, most from Fatah, and none was accused of a violent crime. The first 70 inmates from Ketziot prison camp in the Negev traveled in two buses through the Nahal Oz checkpoint to the Strip. (Text: Alon Pinkas, Photo: Reuter)

Right-wingers plan to spoil Arafat's welcome

HERB KEINON

RIGHT-WING groups are considering blocking roads leading to Jericho and Gaza to prevent Palestinians in the territories from giving PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a hero's welcome when he is scheduled to arrive next month.

One settlement source said it is likely that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians will try to reach Gaza and Jericho to greet Arafat. "We are interested in creating chaos, so that nobody will forget this day," the source said. "There is no way we will allow this day to pass quietly."

Arafat is scheduled to enter Gaza from Egypt, and then proceed on to Jericho.

Meetings between representatives of a number of right-wing groups, opposition parties and the Jerusalem Municipality have recently been held to draw up plans for the day of Arafat's arrival, the source said. National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat said recently this event could be used to galvanize public opinion against the government in a manner that has not be seen before.

Russian envoy says Syria is serious about peace

DAVID MAKOVSKY

RUSSIAN envoy Victor Posvalyuk met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday, seeking to illustrate Moscow's continued interest in the Middle East peace process.

Posvalyuk delivered a letter to Rabin from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Posvalyuk arrived Sunday for two days of talks in Jerusalem after holding meetings in Damascus and Amman. After he met with Rabin yesterday, the Russian diplomat told reporters that he is convinced Syria is serious about peace.

During his stay here, Posvalyuk has made it clear that he does not intend to involve himself in the nitty gritty of negotiations, but rather wants to maintain a dialogue with those involved in the peace process.

Rabin, who had been wary of increased Russian involvement in the peace process, relaxed his views during a trip to Moscow last month. During that visit, the premier became convinced that Russia, a co-sponsor of the talks, was more concerned about the appearance of involvement than it was out to complicate US-led diplomacy in the region, Israeli officials say.

Posvalyuk's discussions with Israeli officials also aimed at improving bilateral economic ties in the aftermath of Rabin's visit to Russia.

The Russian diplomat also held talks yesterday with Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini in eastern Jerusalem, after holding talks on Sunday in Jericho with Palestinian security officials.

In yesterday's meeting, Posvalyuk urged Palestinians to avoid internal violence in setting up their self-rule.

"We call on Palestinians at this stage to stand united and not to use force against each other," he said afterwards to AP.

Husseini said his meeting with the Russian envoy was encouraging.

"We felt again the insistence of the Russians on building the peace process," Husseini said. The Palestinians submitted a list of needs to the Russians, he said.

During his stay in Damascus, apart from meeting Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa, Posvalyuk also held talks with representatives of the Palestinian rejectionist front. These Palestinians made clear to Posvalyuk that they would not participate in the Palestinian Authority.

In his talks with Syrian officials, Posvalyuk discussed rescheduling billions of dollars in debts owed to Moscow, but the issue was not resolved.

Rotenberg's killers get life sentences

RAINE MARCUS

THE two Gazans who axed Isaac Rotenberg to death at a Petah Tikva building site as an initiation rite into the Fatah Hawks were sentenced to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Hazam Shabir, 20 and Atiya Abu Mussa, 23, of Khan Yunis, who did not have permits to work in Israel, were apprehended in Lod a day after the attack.

Rotenberg, 70, a Holocaust survivor, died in the hospital from his injuries two days after the attack.

In sentencing the pair yesterday, Judges Edmond Levy, Devora Berliner and Nissim Yeshiyahu said they could not impose suitable punishments for such crimes.

"We have expressed our feelings on more than one occasion that life sentences for such murders are not sufficient to deter others. These people, who act for 'ideological reasons,' do not show any mercy," said Levy.

Such murderers, "who have blood on their hands," also believe that even if they are imprisoned for life for the murder of Jews they will eventually be released, he added.

"But if they are released," said Levy, "it should weigh on the authorities' conscience that these people may hurt innocent people again, and even cause their deaths."

RAMON

(Continued from Page 1)

Ramon said he decided to break his silence – which he had planned to keep until assuming office – when Shohat criticized him for not speaking out on Histadrut matters. He stressed that the state is responsible for the health of its citizens and that "now that there is a new health minister and secretary-general, and a new state health insurance law, this excellent Kupat Holim, which provides health services for 70% of society deserves a fair chance."

Ramon warned that "those who defy the voter's decision by delaying the transfer of power will have to answer to the voter once again," a hint that Labor would lose the next Knesset elections, possibly to Ramon himself, who would head another party.

Ramon was commenting on the postponement of Thursday's Histadrut's executive committee meeting, due to Haberfeld's illness, which was to set the date for the Histadrut convention, which will enable Ramon to take office.

Judy Siegel contributed to this report.

ARIE MIRKIN

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For funeral details please call 02-931483

Marietta and family Jerusalem 30.5.94

FANNY JOFFE

passed away peacefully
on May 30, 1994.

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, May 31,1994, departing from Beit Protea, Herzliya at 10:30 a.m. for Herzliya Cemetery, Pinsker Street.

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Sydney, Dulcie and family
Jos, June and family

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of the death of our dear

TED LURIE

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on Wednesday, June 1, at 4:30 p.m.

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Sarid slams Beilinson over radioactive waste

LIAT COLLINS

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid yesterday blasted the handling of medical waste at Beilinson Hospital after an enquiry found medical waste of all types – chemical, biological, and radioactive – "thrown in the same storeroom." The international standards in use here require radioactive waste to be separated and stored in special containers in a sealed area with warning signs.

Sarid, however praised the management for immediately correcting the faults.

The investigation followed the discovery of eight barrels of radioactive waste which had been sent from the hospital to the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site in the Negev.

Ramat Hovav is not authorized or equipped to handle radioactive waste, which should be sent to the Negev Nuclear Research Center for disposal.

NNRC and Environment Ministry specialists are checking Ramat Hovav, following the discovery of two contaminated barrels from Soroka Hospital last month. In both cases, the containers held low-level radioactive waste, and the hospitals cooperated fully with the investigation and its recommendations. Most such waste comes from diagnostic and research materials.

Checks at the Beilinson storeroom found radiation at six times the permitted level, although not dangerously high, according to ministry officials. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid sent the hospital a warning and ordered an investigation in the treatment of radioactive waste at hospitals throughout the country.

At a special meeting yesterday, Sarid called the handling of medical waste "severely negligent" and said he would raise the matter with the new health minister. He said, however, that the problems found so far focused on chemical and biological, not radioactive waste, whose treatment was "reasonable" with a few exceptions. He said he would rescind the permits to deal with radioactive materials of any institution which violated the law.

In an interview on Israel Radio, Beilinson's Dr. Yehoshua Kalish emphasized that the waste emitted such low levels of radiation that it could not harm anyone. He admitted however that there was "room for improvement" in the handling of such substances.

Body of missing man found near Dead Sea

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE body of Lev Rabinowitz, 36, who had been missing since Thursday, was found by Beduin trackers yesterday morning on the eastern side of the Nahal Yizrah cliff, near the Dead Sea.

Rabinowitz, an Arad resident, had left his home intending to run to Ein Bokek, where his parents and son were to meet him. Three hours after he failed to arrive, his family notified police.

A search was begun, with rescue teams covering the Arad, Dead Sea, and Judean Desert regions. Volunteers joined police, soldiers, and army trackers in the search, in which two helicopters also were enlisted.

On Saturday afternoon, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz arrived in the area to oversee the searches.

Rabinowitz, who immigrated a year ago from the CIS, had lived for a month in Arad, where he worked as a computer programmer. He was known to be an athlete who specialized in running marathons.

Arad police chief Haim Ayal said Rabinowitz had managed to run 40 km. before making a mistake in his navigation.

Yesterday, Ayal called on all hikers in the Judean Desert to take all the necessary measures to deal with the difficult conditions in the area. Hikers, he said, should take enough water, avoid hiking alone, and carefully plan their route.



Father Hermann Shalueck, world head of the Franciscan order, which is responsible for the Roman Catholic Church's holy places, is greeted by local Christian leaders as he arrives in Jerusalem yesterday. Also on hand to greet him were a group of Christian boy scouts. According to the local Franciscan order, the visit is solely a religious pilgrimage and he is not scheduled to meet with any government officials. (Text: Haim Shapiro, photo: Brian Hendler)

Bill proposes cable TV ad revenue help subsidize poor

LIAT COLLINS

A RADICAL new proposal concerning advertising on cable television was raised in the Knesset finance committee yesterday. Under the new bill, proposed by MK Meir Sheetrit, the cable companies would be permitted to run local commercials only from November 1995, and 50 percent of the proceeds would be used to cut the subscription fees for the poor.

Committee chairman Tzahi Hanegbi said that permitting local advertising on cable stations only in the third year of the operation of the New Channel 2 solves the dilemma posed by promises made by the government to the three commercial franchise holders.

The New Channel 2 relies entirely on income from commercials, with no government support, license, or subscription fees. Franchise owners have repeatedly noted that when they submitted bids, they were assured there would be no local advertising on cable television for at least the first two years.

Hanegbi called the new proposal "revolutionary," and asked the government for an opinion.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, responsible for the New Channel 2, asked the committee to refrain from endorsing the bill to give the station more time to stabilize economically. At its last meeting on the subject, the committee heard that the three franchise holders had suffered huge losses.

Michal Rafaeli-Kaduri, chairwoman of the Cable Council, the public body which supervises the cable stations, called the support of the Cable Companies Association "populism."

"The question of advertising is part of the determinant of the overall price, not a tool for a welfare policy," she said after the meeting. She called attempts to link advertising and subscription fees "foreign and not to the point."

"Truthfully, the sole aim of the Cables Company Association, which asked for permission to broadcast local commercials, is to increase the companies' income," she said.

She emphasized, however, that she is prepared to discuss the issue of cable subscription fees by marketing different broadcast packages at different prices, but the cable companies objected.

More room made in prisons to alleviate overcrowding

RAINE MARCUS

PRISONS Commissioner Arye Bibi has allocated more places in prisons to ease drastic overcrowding in police lock-ups, despite equally bad conditions in the jails.

In Tel Aviv's Abu Kabir lock-up, 317 out of the 536 inmates should be in prison, where they would enjoy privileges, including work and recreational activities not available in lock-ups.

A man sentenced to three years term for burglary and drug offenses committed suicide in his cell at Abu Kabir on Sunday. Although police said that Ya'acov Parfara, 25, had not indicated that he intended to take his own life, sources said he had complained about overcrowding and had been punished by the guards.

"We have inmates sleeping on the floors in cells," said Bibi yesterday. "But even so, we will accept 400 inmates from police lock-ups."

The recent release of Palestinian prisoners has not eased overcrowding, since most inmates were released from IDF installations.

With the evacuation of Gaza Prison, some 400 prisoners were transferred to Prison Service jails.

A new prison at Tzelmon in the North is due to be completed in 1996, and Police Minister Moshe Shahal has complained that while the ministry has a budget for building new jails, mayors object to having them in their area.

The Prisons Service intends to build new lock-up at the Beersheba and Sharon jails.

Liba'i wants changes in trans-Israel highway bill

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE ministerial committee on legislation, headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i, has finished its discussions on the trans-Israel highway bill, which it will now present to the cabinet, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

Liba'i does not believe that the bill, which calls for the expropriation of land, will be passed by the Knesset in its current form, and has suggested a number of changes:

- The establishment of a special committee, headed by a retired judge, to hear compensation claims.
- Compensation not in dispute is to be paid to the land owner within 30 days.
- Compensation is to be determined according to the current value of the property, not its future value.
- Property owners who lose the majority of their land are to be offered other land by the committee.

In addition, Liba'i said property owners should be given 100 percent compensation for their loss, not 75%, because of the national nature of the project.

Liba'i also said he supports the construction of the trans-Israel highway, and believes that a special law is needed to advance the project. However, he said the law must fairly compensate those people whose property will be expropriated.

New artificial heart used at Beilinson

JUDY SIEGEL

A WOMAN who has been attached to a sophisticated artificial heart, the first of its kind to be used here, is fighting for her life at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva.

The woman, 23, had previously undergone three operations at Sheba Hospital to correct a narrowing in her aortic valve, but her cardiac function deteriorated and she was connected to a heart-lung machine. Since the wait for a donor heart can take weeks or months, Sheba doctors asked Prof. Bernardo Vidne of Beilinson's cardiothoracic surgery department to try to connect her to the artificial heart that it had recently received as a donation. He agreed, and the operation took three hours.

The sophisticated device is available in only a few hospitals abroad. The patient's own heart was not removed. The two-chamber artificial heart pumps blood into the lungs and to the rest of the body; an exterior device powers and monitors the device. The artificial heart can keep a patient alive for several months, allowing doctors to obtain a suitable donor heart.

Veteran 'Post' reporter Wallfish honored

DAN IZENBERG

VETERAN Jerusalem Post parliamentary correspondent Asher Wallfish has won the Svislotzky Prize for excellence among parliamentary correspondents.

The NIS 5,000 prize has been awarded to Wallfish, who retired last year after covering the Knesset for 25 years, and *Ha'aretz* correspondent Gideon Alon.

The awards committee stated that the prize was given to Wallfish for his "broad-scoped articles which present the work of the Knesset to the reader from several angles: parliamentary, diplomatic and economic. Asher Wallfish scrupulously distinguishes between fact and opinion and his writing is characterized by accuracy, intellectual integrity and a high professional standard."

The prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on June 8 in the Knesset sponsored by the Svislotzky family and the Jerusalem Journalists' Union, and attended by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss and MK Zevulun Hammer.

Slander suit dismissed

Beersheba Magistrates Court yesterday dismissed a slander suit against former Ben-Gurion University rector Prof. Avraham Tamir, filed by Prof. Evron Polakov, a former lecturer in philosophy.

After Polakov was declined promotion to senior lecturer, several leading American philosophers sent letters to Tamir in support of Polakov. Tamir replied that the denial of tenure had been for "objective academic reasons," and this remark served as the basis for the suit. *Amir Rozenblit*

Ex-smoker wins prize for kicking habit

JUDY SIEGEL

A MAN who quit smoking after 20 years of being hooked will today receive $3,000 and a trip to the Czech Republic as winner of a prize to mark World No-Tobacco Day today.

Yishai Yafet, 35, married and the father of two, is sales manager at Assaf Industries. He was one of 688 former smokers who qualified for the first local competition, organized by the Health Ministry, the Israel Cancer Association, the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking, the health funds, the Israel Pharmacists Association, and others.

The competition was open to anyone over 18 who smoked at least one cigarette per day for a year and quit over a month ago. Ten names were picked by lottery, and the winner was tested by a special device at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital that tests the amount of tar and carbon monoxide in the lungs.

Yafet will receive his prize from Health Ministry Director-General Mordechai Shani and anti-smoking association head Amos Hausner will receive a medallion and certificate, sent by World Health Organization Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, for his contribution to the battle against tobacco.

According to WHO statistics, three million people die each year throughout the world from tobacco-related causes; of these, 5,000 are Israelis.

Bomb threat closes Haifa streets

YIGAL KOTZER

A HAIFA store owner threatened to detonate a bomb on a main street yesterday, after bailiffs accompanied by police officers arrived to seize property as a lien on the man's debts.

Michael Grudtzer, 43, owes NIS 17,000 in unpaid rent. When he saw the officers approaching, he locked himself in his store and issued the bomb threat, forcing police to close three streets. However, the man surrendered after three hours, and was arrested.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl, 12, electrocuted by power line

Salawa Subhi, 12, of Kafr Manda in the Galilee, was electrocuted Sunday night when a tractor knocked over a utility pole in the village and one of the power lines ripped loose. Subhi, who was running behind the tractor, was killed when she was struck by the live wire. *Itim*

Baram tours the Far East

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram left yesterday on a working visit to Japan, South Korea, and China. Baram will meet with his counterparts and tourism industry figures in an effort to increase tourism from these countries, particularly by Christian pilgrims from Japan and South Korea. He is accompanied by Director-General Eli Gonen and marketing director Shmuel Tzurel.

203 illegal workers arrested

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's labor law enforcement unit last week apprehended 203 illegal construction workers from the territories. All were returned to the territories, except for 15 persons whom the police and General Security Service had barred from entering the country for security reasons. The 15 remain under arrest. *Itim*

Village opposes Channel 2 transmitter

Better reception of the New Channel 2 in the Galilee and Golan has been postponed, after Beit Jann residents opposed the erection of a transmitter on nearby Mt. Tzafrir. Residents fear the 30 kilowatt transmitter would endanger their health, despite assurances from the Environment Ministry that there is no risk. Channel 2 is now looking for another hill top. *Itim*

Environmental films at festival

Screens will be green today at the Fifth International Students Film Festival being held in the Tel Aviv Cinematheque: all of today's films are on environmental subjects.

The project, in cooperation with the Society for Ecological Awareness and Involvement (ALMA), aims at grabbing young minds. There will also be panels on environmental awareness and noise in public places.

An exhibition of green art will include photos and sculptures from recycled materials.

Taba Hilton's casino opens Thursday

The casino at the Taba Hilton is to open Thursday night, Hilton International announced yesterday.

According to Taba Hilton manager Neil Matheison, only 120 guests are to be permitted at a time in the casino, which is to be open from 5 p.m. to 4 a.m., seven days a week. An entry fee of $20 on weekends and $10 midweek is to be charged, although hotel guests are to receive a discount on the fee.

Entry is to be restricted to those over 21 who have valid foreign (non-Egyptian) passports.

Zas airline to begin Israel-Egypt flights

The Zas airline is to begin flights between Ben-Gurion Airport and Egypt starting next week. The private, 11-year-old airline, which belongs to Amir and Sherif Zarcani, flies to the Gulf states, New York, and a range of tourist destinations in Europe.

Restaurant asks court for foreign workers

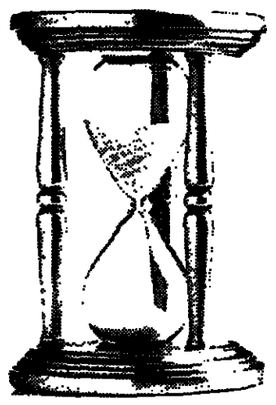
The Apropos restaurant chain has petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the Interior Ministry and the Employment Service to allow it to bring in foreign workers.

It also asked the court to order the Interior Ministry not to deport foreign workers brought in on permits that recently expired.

Apropos argued that it needed to bring in Thai cooks, as Thai and Chinese dishes make up 50 percent of its menu. *Itim*

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, nine of hearts, nine of diamonds, and seven of clubs.



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Ex-Nation of Islam spokesman shot

TOM GORMAN and PSYCHE PASCUAL
RIVERSIDE, Calif

A BLACK gunman dressed to look like a member of the Nation of Islam shot and wounded controversial former Nation of Islam spokesman Khallid Abdul Mohammed here Sunday, on the steps outside a university auditorium where Mohammed had just spoken.

The gunman was identified as James Edward Bess, 49, a former member of the Nation of Islam.

Mohammed, 43, was hit in the left leg by at least one of five or six shots from a .9 mm handgun, officials said. He was in satisfactory condition at Riverside Community Hospital, according to a Mohammed associate who asked not to be named. Riverside is about 100 kilometers east of Los Angeles.

Two Nation of Islam bodyguards were also wounded. Caliph Sadig, 33, of Upland, Calif., was in satisfactory condition with a wound in the upper right back. Another guard, Varnado Puckett, 34, of Pomona, Calif., was shot three times. He was in serious condition, undergoing surgery at Riverside General Hospital.

The gunman – wearing the dark suit, white shirt and bow tie "characteristic of what his security people were wearing," said University of California, Riverside, spokesman Jack Chappell – stepped from a crowd of some 50 people outside the auditorium where Mohammed had just spoken, and fired from five to 10 feet away.

He was severely beaten by the crowd, some of whom reportedly shouted, "He works for the Jews." (Mohammed was fired as an aide to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan after making antisemitic remarks last year.) Police plucked the bloodied man from the angry crowd and put him in a police car until he could be taken away by ambulance.

No motive for the shooting has been discussed by officials.

Ahromuz, a longtime Mohammed friend who was standing on the auditorium steps next to Mohammed when he was shot, said someone had just asked him to compare the struggle of Latinos with those of African Americans.

"The last thing I remember him saying was, 'The same dog that bit you, bit me,'" said Ahromuz.

"After that, just pop, pop, pop, pop, pop. It was so close. I just took my daughter and hit the ground," he said. "I heard a bullet echo in my ear and I could smell gunpowder."

In the chaos after the 6:09 p.m. shooting, Ahromuz said, several young African-American men attacked some white people who had rushed to the scene, but others who had been at the speech intervened.

Members of the Fruit of Islam, the Nation of Islam's security contingent, carried the wounded Mohammed back through the building to a waiting white Lincoln Continental and hurried him to Riverside Community Hospital.

Associated Press photographer William Lewis said angry supporters descended on the gunman and pummeled him as police attempted to stop them.

"They were just kicking and stomping him in the head. That's where the pandemonium was. They dragged the shooter out by the nape of his neck, blood dripping," he said. "People were still trying to get their kicks in. The police were trying to protect him. And the people wouldn't let him get out."

UC Riverside senior Mark Thaler, who attended the speech, saw the suspect later, "a bloodied head, and [he was] propped up" in the back of the police car.

Under intense security that included patdowns and bag searches and a hefty presence of police, campus security as well as Fruit of Islam, nearly 450 people had entered the Student Recreation Center to hear Mohammed, who was sponsored by the African Student Alliance at UC Riverside.

During the speech, some 70 protesters picketed silently outside, among them Jewish and Roman Catholic students.

Inside, three people were thrown out of the building after they began heckling Mohammed. Campus officials identified one of them as Irv Rubin, a member of the Jewish Defense League.

Following the speech, Mohammed stepped outside, where 50 or 60 people were waiting.

"After a speech, he likes to deal with the people, which irritates his security," a friend of Mohammed's told the *Los Angeles Times*. "Security is more worried about Khallid than Khallid himself."

That Mohammed arouses strong passions has been evident since his racist remarks last November at a New Jersey college about Jews, comments which got Mohammed fired from his job as senior aide to Nation of Islam head Louis Farrakhan.

Mohammed said Jews and Arabs were "the bloodsuckers of the black nation and the black community," and suggested Jews brought the Holocaust upon themselves.

After his speech was denounced by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Congressional black caucus and President Clinton, Farrakhan was forced to reprimand Mohammed and suspend him from his role as top aide and spokesman.

Although Farrakhan said he agreed with Mohammed's remarks, he disagreed with how he said them. *Los Angeles Times*



Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn signs his book 'Gulag Archipelago' for students in Vladivostok. Reuter)

Tory faces furor over seductions

LONDON (Reuter) – Conservative politician Alan Clark, a one-time favorite of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, faced a furor yesterday over his seduction of the wife and two daughters of a British judge.

The affair between Clark and the wife and daughters of Judge James Harkess, now retired to South Africa, made tabloid headlines after the women confessed all in a bid to wreak revenge.

Harkess, 64, who only learnt of the affairs when his family decided to go public, vowed to take up the issue when he arrives in London this week.

Judge Harkess told the *News of the World:* "If I'd known about it, I would have horsewhipped him."

"Call me an old fool but I trusted that man," the retired judge was quoted as saying.

Harkess's wife Valerie, 57, and her daughters Josephine, 34, and Alison, 36, told their story to bestselling Sunday tabloid *News of the World* after Clark reneged on a promise not to recount details of their relations in his diaries.

Today newspaper said Valerie and Josephine were also rushing to London for a confrontation with Clarke.

Clarke's wife, Jane, shrugged off the revelations about her philandering husband. "Quite frankly if you bed people of below-stairs class, they go to the papers," she said.

The three women – who former defense procurement minister Clarke dubbed "my coven" – said they decided to speak out when his diary was to be published in South Africa.

Clark, a self-confessed philanderer whose hugely entertaining diaries have outsold the weighty memoirs of his former boss Margaret Thatcher, was away on business in Paris when the story broke.

Tracked down by reporters, he said with a touch of irony: "I never comment on what the ladies say about me."

His long-suffering wife, bombarded by press queries throughout the weekend, put up a sign on the portcullis of the family's medieval castle saying: "Do not come into the garden. I have let the rottweilers loose."

She had known of the triple seduction but said: "I have more important things to deal with. I am going to mow the lawn."

Valerie Harkess told the *News of the World* she had a 14-year affair until the 1980s with Clark. She confessed she was "addicted to his forceful personality," but said he was a very selfish and insistent lover. She said Clark later seduced her daughters.

The Harkess ladies said Clark, now 64, sent them erotic notes on House of Commons parliamentary notepaper and a postcard of him half-naked in a T-shirt.

Clark, who resigned from the government in 1992, inherited much of his estimated £40 million fortune from his father Kenneth Clark, famed for the landmark television series "Civilization."

Row heats up over Major's 'beggars are eyesore' statement

LONDON (Reuter) – A row sparked by Prime Minister John Major's description of beggars as an "eyesore" on British streets escalated into a political slanging match yesterday with politicians from all parties joining the fray.

Major's remarks, issued in the run-up to European Parliament elections on June 9, drew fire from church leaders, political foes and charities that care for the homeless, which accused him of attacking society's most vulnerable members.

As the argument raged, four key charities issued a joint statement yesterday calling for action that would help reduce the number of young people sleeping rough throughout the nation.

Gordon Brown, a potential candidate to succeed the late John Smith as leader of the opposition Labor party, blamed Major for boosting Britain's population of beggars by withdrawing welfare benefits from 16- and 17-year-olds and failing to staunch unemployment.

"Instead of trying to clear away the evidence of the problem he created, he has got a direct and personal responsibility to take action to solve the problem," Brown, Labor's spokesman on financial affairs, told BBC radio.

On Friday, Major, campaigning for the European elections which are widely seen as a referendum on his leadership, outraged his opponents by saying: "It is an offensive thing to beg."

He followed up his remarks on Saturday, saying he stood by what he had said.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, scoring his own political points from Major's comments, told BBC television yesterday his party would restore benefits to teenagers of 16 and 17 at a cost of £140 million ($211 million).

"We believe the government's heartlessness in providing that sum is the cause of much of the homelessness and poverty that you see on the streets of Britain," he said.

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds lost their benefits in a government shake-up of social security payouts in 1988.

Conservative members of parliament sprang to Major's defense. Michael Portillo, an ambitious right-wing contender for John Major's job, said he was opposed to restoring the benefits and employment minister David Hunt said Major had been misrepresented by "a crescendo of distortion and over-reaction."

Conservative party chairman Sir Norman Fowler backed Major's speech. "What the prime minister has said has gained very much major support among the public," he said.

Controversy over control of Nazi files

75 million pages being microfilmed

RICK ATKINSON
BERLIN

MORE than 100 times a minute, 50,000 times a day, a camera shutter clicks in a windowless basement in southwest Berlin, capturing on each frame a fragment of Germany's grim past.

Thirteen camera operators labor throughout the day on what some here say may be the most ambitious microfilming project ever undertaken: the duplication of 75 million pages of Nazi personnel documents stored in a former Gestapo eavesdropping post now known as the Berlin Document Center.

The microfilmers work swiftly, because on July 1 the US State Department intends to relinquish custody of the original documents to the German government. The duplicates – eight million feet of film on 38,000 rolls – will be flown to Washington this summer and deposited in the National Archives. The Justice Department keeps the right to unrestricted access to the original files.

The pages passing beneath the camera lens range from the prosaic to the sinister: Heinrich Himmler's expense accounts; Nazi Party membership card No. 899,895, belonging to one Adolf Eichmann; Josef Mengele's dental records and membership sheet in the Nazi Physicians Professional Association; Hermann Goering's suicide notes, scribbled before he swallowed cyanide in 1946.

Among the old files with contemporary relevance is that of Erich Priebke, a former SS captain now awaiting extradition in Argentina on charges of helping to murder 335 Italians in Rome's Adreatine Caves in 1944.

Returning the original documents to German custody has met resistance. Historians, Jewish groups and Nazi-hunters have bitterly objected to the State Department's plan.

They complain that restrictive German privacy laws will hamper access to the original documents, that the National Archives duplicates will not be available for at least two years and that surrendering the files is morally wrong.

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., who led hearings on the document center last month, has threatened a full debate in Congress "on Germany's Nazi past" unless Bonn and the State Department resolve the controversy.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel recently promised Jewish leaders that rules governing access to the original documents will remain in line with US regulations until the National Archives duplicates are ready for viewing. US Embassy officials in Bonn are trying to hammer out the details.

Many of the files were seized by Allied troops driving across Germany – such as some 10.7 million Nazi Party membership cards impounded by American soldiers at a Bavarian paper mill as the SS prepared to reduce them to pulp. The cards provided useful evidence for prosecutors at the Nazi War-Crimes tribunal in Nuremburg.

Ever since, the archives have proved invaluable for historians scrutinizing the Third Reich, for German officials sorting out immigration requests and for Nazi-hunters looking for culprits.

Last year the center processed 27,000 requests for information from official agencies and 1,300 from private individuals such as scholars and journalists.

Although few files in this collection contain direct documentation of mass murder, the information often helps corroborate other evidence. "When a guy writes in his resume, 'I was assigned to KZ Auschwitz,' and he signs it, it's difficult for him to later claim that he wasn't there," said David Marwell, 42, the center's director.

Moreover, German officials for years privately hinted that they were content to have such sensitive material remain in American hands. "I don't think the Germans really wanted the documents," said Donald Kobletz, the State Department's lawyer in Berlin in the 1980s and now a private attorney here. "It's a bit of a hot potato for everybody."

The potato got hotter in the 1980s when it was discovered that an estimated 10,000 pages had been stolen from the archives and sold to memorabilia collectors willing to pay up to $3,000 for each signature of a high-ranking Nazi. Marwell was dispatched to Berlin to overhaul security procedures.

In bulk alone the collection is staggering, covering roughly eight miles of stacked paper. Among the party membership cards is that of Oskar Schindler – party No. 6,421,477 – and Amon Goeth, No. 510,964, the sadistic commandant of Plaszow concentration camp in Poland.

Much of the current controversy was stirred by an article in *The New Yorker* by writer Gerald Posner, who questioned both the quality of the microfilming and the potential pitfalls in German privacy laws. He contends, for example, that microfilm fails to distinguish between different colored inks used on some documents and renders some writing less legible.

More significant perhaps are concerns about whether German archivists would hinder legitimate scholarship. German privacy law typically prohibits access to files on people until they have been dead for at least 30 years.

However, as to the issue of accessing the original documents, Marwell expressed confidence that the German government will prove to be a fair administrator. Since 1988, Germany's Federal Archives has had the authority to screen requests from German citizens for entry into the Berlin Document Center; German officials contend that only one request from a scholar and less than 1 percent of requests from private citizens have been denied. Moreover, under the agreement signed last October, the Justice Department keeps the right to unrestricted access to the files.

"For the kind of access that people are concerned about – scholarship and Nazi war-crime investigations – people won't see a difference," Marwell said. "Absent some dramatic change, I don't think scholars have anything to worry about."

The Washington Post

Who really beat Nazi Germany?

PARIS (Reuter) – Which country most contributed to the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945?

A majority of Americans and nearly half the French believe it was the US, according to a poll published yesterday which showed many Britons credited their own country.

The Germans believe their defeat was jointly attributable to the then Soviet Union, the US and Britain, according to the poll carried out by the IFOP and Gallup organizations for the newspaper *Le Monde* and the US Cable News Network.

The poll, conducted in the US, Britain, Germany and France to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1944 Allied landings in Normandy, showed 65 percent of Americans believed their country contributed most to Germany's defeat.

Some 49% of the French agreed it was the United States, together with 18% of Britons. Some 37% of Britons said their country contributed most.

Thirty-one percent of Germans said it was a combination of the US, Britain and the Soviet Union.

Some 64% of the French believed their country's Resistance movement played an equal role to that of the Allies in liberating France, while 25% said the Allies' role was more important.

The US was seen by a majority of Britons, Germans and French as their country's most reliable ally today, the poll showed.

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Pope: Women priests no longer an issue

VATICAN CITY (AP) – Pope John Paul II yesterday sought to cut off debate on whether women could ever become Roman Catholic priests, declaring it a closed issue.

In a letter to all bishops, the pope said the church "has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the church's faithful."

The letter, with the title, "On Reserving Priestly Ordination to Men Alone," was in part the Vatican's formal response to the ordination of women in the Church of England two months ago. The Vatican denounced the ordinations at the time as a serious obstacle to possible unity between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches.

The pope rejected the possibility that women could become priests on grounds that Jesus chose only men as apostles, Church tradition and Church law.

John Paul said it should not be considered a question of discrimination or to mean that "women are of lesser dignity."

"Rather, it is to be seen as the faithful observance of a plan to be ascribed to the wisdom of the Lord of the universe."

While the Vatican has spoken out consistently on the issue, the pope acknowledged that "in some places it is nonetheless considered still open to debate, or the Church's judgment that women are not to be admitted to ordination is considered to have a merely disciplinary force."

An accompanying declaration by the Vatican said the issue "always requires the full and unconditional assent of the faithful, and to teach the contrary is equivalent to leading consciences into error."

Despite shortages of priests, the Vatican has refused to bend to pressures from many Catholics in the United States and Western Europe to admit women.

It recently gave in to calls from liberals and allowed women to be altar servers, a practice in fact already widespread. But the Vatican made clear it was not a step toward ordination.

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J. Goodman/D. Greener
"FORSAKE ME NOT"

Bosnian parliament to ratify Moslem-Croat pact

SARAJEVO (Reuter) – Members of the Bosnian parliament converged on besieged Sarajevo yesterday for a key session to ratify a new federal alliance between Moslems and Croats against Serbs holding 70 percent of the country.

The meeting was scheduled for yesterday morning but had to be postponed until the late afternoon because many delegates were still trying to make their way through Bosnian Serb lines to the capital, which has been under siege for more than two years.

While there are several land routes in and out of the city, opened under a freedom-of-movement accord earlier this year after the superpowers imposed a demilitarized zone around Sarajevo backed by the threat of NATO air strikes, transport and communications in the area are still limited.

The meeting was called to adopt changes to the country's constitution allowing ratification of agreements between Moslems and Croats that were struck in Washington and Vienna.

Those agreements to form a federation seeking the greater share of land under any peace settlement ended months of conflict between Moslems and Croats, who began the war as allies but fell out while fighting for territory in central Bosnia.

Parliament is also due to ratify the Vienna agreement by naming a Croat president, a Moslem vice-president and a Moslem prime minister to run the country for six months until new local and federal elections can be held.

The meeting coincides with talks among the warring parties and international mediators to try to agree on how to divide up the country.

The first session in France last week ended without agreement, but the new alliance is expected to resume talks with Serbs and an international "contact group" on June 6 and 7.

Mediators are proposing a 51-49% split, with the greater share going to the new alliance. The Croats and Moslems have said they "partially accept" the offer, after retreating from earlier demands for 58% of Bosnia.

Rwandan rebels, gov't okay cease-fire in principle

KIGALI (Reuter) – Rwanda's rebels and government troops agreed to the principle of a ceasefire during talks in Kigali yesterday, held with battles raging elsewhere in the capital.

The rebels, however, insisted on a second meeting on Thursday to discuss issues relating to mass killings in which an estimated 500,000 people have perished in seven weeks.

The rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) delegation said it wanted the government army to say at Thursday's talks what it would do about massacres, mainly of Tutsis, widely blamed on the army and Hutu militias.

Rebels also want a reply on their demand for the closure of the extremist Hutu radio RTLM, which has incited the mass killings and which again on Monday urged people to take up traditional arms against the smaller Tutsi clan.

These issues and details of a draft ceasefire proposed by the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) discussed at UN headquarters in Kigali could then be worked out, rebels said.

The killing of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana and the president of neighboring Burundi in a rocket attack on their plane on April 6 ignited the current violence in Rwanda.

The two warring sides agreed that UN evacuation of refugees across battle lines should continue.

As the representatives of rebel and government armies met, gunfire echoed round the capital Kigali where the guerrillas have gained an upper hand.

The advance by the Tutsi-dominated rebels has sent about 500,000 Hutus fleeing the city in fear. They are now cut off near the town of Gitarama, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday.

"It's become extremely serious. It's very difficult for aid agencies to cope with this sort of situation," ICRC spokesman Tony Burgener said in Geneva.

"They have little food or water and the medical situation is very serious."

Gitarama, 40 kilometers south of the capital, was the town to which the self-appointed interim government fled as rebels closed on Kigali.

RPF troops are also advancing on Gitarama and many members of the government moved on again last Saturday to the western town of Kibuye on the shores of Lake Kivu facing eastern Zaire.

Hungary's Socialists savor victory

BUDAPEST (Reuter) – A day after scoring a landslide election victory and seizing a parliamentary majority, Hungary's Socialists yesterday savored a victory that will put many ex-communists back in power.

The party is gearing up for a special weekend congress to decide what to do after capturing 209 seats out of the possible 386 in Hungary's single-chamber parliament.

"We are preparing for a congress at the weekend that will decide the party's candidate for the prime minister's job and also decide on the possibility of a coalition," party spokesman Andras Bard told Reuters.

Party chairman Gyula Horn, a former foreign minister, is widely tipped for the premiership.

"The likelihood that someone else will be elected is very small," said a Socialist official who refused to be identified.

At a news conference late on Sunday night, Horn stressed his party's intention to continue integrating the country into Western Europe.

"For Hungarian economic development, Hungarian-German relations are crucial," he said. "We also want to talk to Brussels [the headquarters of the European Union]."

Horn also told the audience of several hundred journalists and supporters that after the government is formed his first official visit will be to Germany.

Horn's election could prevent the formation of a very strong coalition with the liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) that many Hungarians would prefer as a way to lead the country out of its grave economic difficulties.

The AFD finished second at the polls with 70 seats, which represent 18.13 percent of the total.

The two parties together could have a higher than two-thirds majority, enabling them to amend the constitution or pass key legislation at will and raising the threat of a formation that political analysts have nicknamed "constitutional dictatorship."

But AFD leaders have repeatedly said they would not enter a coalition with Horn as prime minister. They insist their candidate Gabor Kuncze must get the post.



Liberal party presidential candidate Ernesto Samper (center), his wife, Jacquin Strauss, and running-mate Humberto de La Calle celebrate a narrow first-place finish in the first round of voting. (Reuter)

Colombia contenders both claim victory

BOGOTA (Reuter) – Colombia's top two presidential candidates searched yesterday for extra votes to clinch victory in a June 19 runoff after the country's closest election this century resulted in a virtual tie.

Liberal Party contender Ernesto Samper and Conservative rival Andres Pastrana each claimed victory after official results put them just 18,700 votes apart, though diplomats and independent analysts said the big surprise was Samper's relatively poor showing.

The election was largely free of the drug and guerrilla violence that has long scarred this coffee- and oil-exporting nation, but suffered from a low turnout. Only one in three voted.

With 97.3 percent of polling stations reporting, the National Registry Office said Samper had won 45.25 percent against Pastrana's 44.92 percent with left-wing ex-guerrilla Antonio Navarro Wolff a distant third at 3.81 percent.

Samper, 43, had been the favorite because he had the support of popular outgoing President Cesar Gaviria and of the majority Liberal Party. He told supporters at a Bogota hotel shortly after hearing the result that he would have liked to win on the first round, but added:

"We've won the first round, we hope to continue counting on you, on your happiness, on your support and on your enthusiasm because we're going to win the second round."

Pastrana, 39, the right-wing outsider who set up his own cross-party coalition to challenge for the presidency, was more triumphant. "Today the change has begun and in the next three weeks we will complete that change," he told cheering followers. "Today the old politics lost and the people won."

Political analyst Pierre Gilhodes described the result as a "semi-defeat" for Samper. "What appears to have happened is not so much that Pastrana won a lot of votes as that Samper failed to get the Liberal Party to turn out for him," he told Reuters.

With the two leading candidates so evenly balanced, attention focused yesterday on who the 16 other candidates eliminated in Sunday's election would choose to endorse.

North Yemen tries to prevent UN debate

SANA'A (Reuter) – Northern Yemen, fearing implicit UN recognition of their breakaway southern foes, lobbied hard yesterday to discourage a planned Security Council discussion on the civil war.

After denouncing Tuesday's scheduled Security Council consultations on Yemen as interference in Yemeni affairs, the Sana'a government said it wanted to prevent the discussion.

"We are exerting all efforts to have the question dropped from the council's agenda, so that there will be no council decision," northern deputy Prime Minister Abdelwahab al-Ounsi told reporters in Sana'a.

He said that if the council decided to take any action, Sana'a would prefer a council appeal rather than a resolution. If either failed to stress Yemen's unity, then the Sana'a government would reject any council decision.

He said Sana'a "will review any resolution and will reject it if it contains anything affecting the people's gains, or allows any neighbors to interfere in Yemeni affairs."

The UN discussion was prompted by Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia which Sana'a sees as favoring the south. The Arab states want a UN resolution which calls for a truce, an arms embargo and a fact-finding mission to Yemen.

With the war ending its fourth week, there were reports of artillery and missile duels yesterday but no significant change seen on the ground near the southern stronghold of Aden.

The forces of northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his southern foe Ali Salem Baidh appeared to have hardly moved from positions they occupied last week in a virtual semi-circle around Aden, said Reuters correspondent Ashraf Fouad in Aden.

Differences over power-sharing in unified Yemen between Saleh and Baidh erupted into civil war on May 4, four years after the two men merged the north and south.

WORLD BRIEFS

Clinton urges homage to war dead

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Clinton, preparing for his trip to Normandy to commemorate D-Day, marked Memorial Day yesterday by paying homage to US soldiers who died in action and urging Americans to remain vigilant.

"Fifty years ago the world learned just what Americans are capable of," Clinton said at Arlington National Cemetery. "World War II was an era of sacrifice unequal in our history. It was the energies of free people who turned the tide" against totalitarianism.

Clinton, born two years after the D-Day invasion of the French Normandy coast, spoke after placing a wreath at the cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns.

US president's approval rating drops

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's job-approval rating dropped this month to its lowest level since August 1993, a poll indicates.

Forty-two percent of Americans now give Clinton a positive rating, down from 48 percent in early April, according to a Harris Poll released Sunday. His negative rating, meanwhile, rose this month to 56 percent, from 51 percent in April.

Clinton has had worse poll numbers, but the figures are strikingly low for a period of economic growth, said Humphrey Taylor, president of Louis Harris and Associates Inc.

Clinton's positive rating in June 1993 was 35 percent; it was 41 percent last August.

Taylor said the drop this month might be attributed to Clinton's Whitewater and sexual harassment cases, although most people claim they are not affected by those issues. Another possible explanation, the pollster said, was a perception of indecisive leadership on foreign affairs.

Violence against journalists at record high

VIENNA – Last year saw record levels of violence against journalists and unprecedented repression of the media, the head of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers said yesterday.

At least 70 journalists were killed worldwide in 1993, and 30 other deaths were under investigation. Over 2,000 attacks, including arrests, assassinations and raids on newspaper offices, were recorded, K. Prescott Low told the meeting.

The figure represents a 23 percent increase since 1992.

About 800 newspaper executives from 58 countries gathered in Vienna to discuss topics ranging from press freedom, electronic newspapers of the future and ways to halt a global decline in readership.

Galileo to be honored on stamps

VATICAN CITY (AP) – More than 350 years after punishing Galileo Galilei for his discoveries, the Vatican will honor the 17th-century astronomer with two stamps today.

The stamps are part of the theme "Europe 1994" celebrating European cooperation, the ANSA news agency reported. One shows Galileo beside a graphic of the solar system; the other shows him with a diagram of the atom.

Galileo was condemned in 1633 by a Roman Catholic Church Inquisition court for saying the Earth was not the center of the universe, as church teaching then held.

He was forced to recant and sentenced to life imprisonment, later commuted to house arrest. Galileo died in 1642, having spent the last eight years of his life in captivity.

In October 1992, after a 13-year Vatican review, Pope John Paul II declared the church was wrong to condemn Galileo and he was formally rehabilitated.

British workers subject to bullying

LONDON (Reuter) – More than half of British employees are victims of workplace bullying, a survey to be published this week shows.

The survey, conducted by Staffordshire University, found that 53 percent of those interviewed had themselves been bullied at work and 78 percent had witnessed it happening during their working lives. The program, "Bullying at Work," said the most recognized forms of bullying were intimidation, verbal abuse on a daily basis and public humiliation.

Record heat wave hits India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) – Temperatures soared yesterday to a 50-year record in India's northern plains and deserts, in a brutal heat wave that has killed 86 people in a week and left Indians gasping for rain.

The mercury climbed to 115F (46C) in New Delhi, the weather bureau said, but most of the heat stroke victims were in the western state of Rajasthan, which recorded 120F degrees (49C).

Eyes turned skyward at each wisp of cloud in search of the monsoons, the annual rains that bring relief to parched farmlands and prompt grown men and children to dance in the first downpour.

This year, the monsoons arrived May 27 at India's southern tip, but it will take up to six weeks to travel north. Television crews rushed to Thiruvanathapuram to film the crashing of the monsoon onto the coast.

For two weeks, New Delhi's newspapers have charted the heat wave on their front pages, treating it like a disaster story. Doctors warned people to stay indoors between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

People hung water-soaked bed sheets on windows and watched weather reports tracking grease-like smudges of cloud formations in the southern Bay of Bengal.

Germany stunned by health scandal

BONN (Reuter) – Politicians and consumer groups were stunned yesterday at allegations that German doctors had secretly accepted millions of dollars worth of bribes in a decade-long conspiracy to cheat the national health system.

Doctors groups decried what they saw as a "lynch-mob" mentality and said they would sue en masse for libel if the claims that doctors colluded with medical firms to fraudulently inflate the cost of implants were not backed up with evidence.

State-chartered health insurers have accused top surgeons, who exercise considerable administrative clout in German hospitals, of overcharging for cardiac valves and other heart implants and then sharing the proceeds with the manufacturers.

"The billion mark-high bribery incidences are alarming evidence of how far corruption has penetrated our society," said Social Democrat home affairs spokesman Ulrich Maurer.

The Federal Doctors Association threatened to sue.

"It seems, with the lack of evidence, that the health insurers are trying to create a pogrom atmosphere," the association's president, Karsten Vilmar, told German radio.

He added that the allegations appeared to be part of a campaign by the insurers to have the costs charged to them by hospitals under the state health system reduced.

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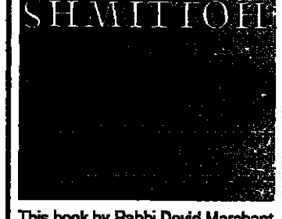
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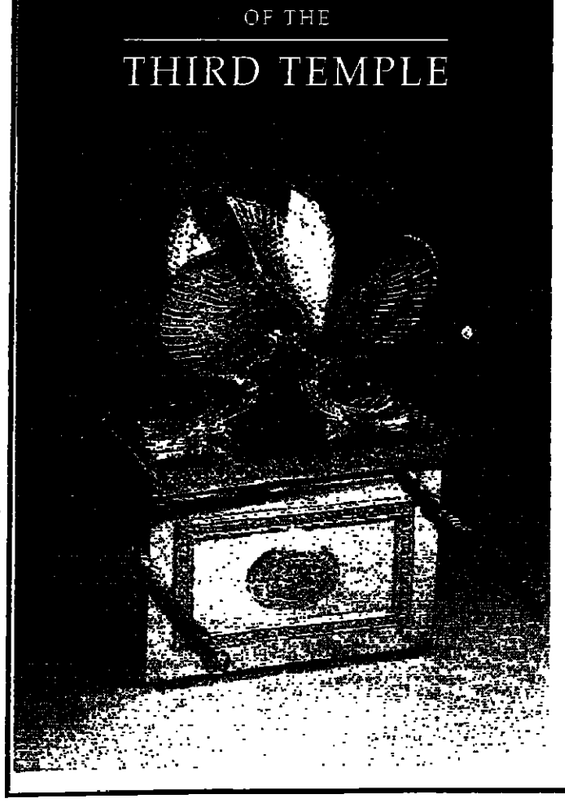


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Wise government decisions

IN its efforts to reduce housing costs, the government has finally made some wise decisions. First, it rejected Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's proposal to involve the government in construction. As Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel have repeatedly warned, this would be a step in the wrong direction, an invitation to waste and inefficiency.

Another wise move was the decision to release for sale government-owned land in the country's center, where demand is greatest. To prevent speculation and "hoarding" of these valuable tracts, bidding contractors will have to commit to starting construction within four months. The government hopes that as a result of this move, 100,000 new apartments will be built in the next two years.

There were other good decisions, too. Contractors who meet deadlines will receive bonuses, while those who fall behind schedule will be fined; more construction workers – up to 13,000 – from the administered territories and the self-rule zones of Gaza and Jericho will be allowed to enter Green Line Israel; the housing minister will be able to import, according to need, up to 25,000 workers from abroad; procedural and legislative reform will be introduced to reduce the number of required building permits and accelerate their movement through bureaucratic channels; substantial sums will be allotted to developing infrastructure – water, sewage, and utilities.

These decisions, which should have been made long ago, are unexceptionable. But decisions are not enough. In the past, the government announced the sale of desirable lands only to prove that it was unable or unwilling to do so equitably and efficiently.

The promise to change regulations to facilitate the passage of building permits through bureaucratic labyrinths is also not new. Unfortunately, the various licensing committees, particularly in the interior ministry, seem impervious to government decisions. To truly expedite procedures, the government will have to introduce some drastic legislation to eliminate the majority of permits now required.

And while applying the carrot-and-stick approach to contractors seems reasonable and potentially effective, the fact is that virtually no contractors have been penalized for failing to meet deadlines.

In fact, the government's leniency with contractors is not wholly unjustified. Since they depend almost completely on Palestinian workers, and since closures, curfews and strikes wreak havoc on building schedules, their failure to meet deadlines is often unavoidable. That the problem still exists is the fault of Israeli governments of both the Likud and Labor. It could have been eliminated had Israel imported large numbers of foreign workers.

In this sphere, too, cabinet decisions seem to have little impact on implementation. If the government is truly eager to free the building industry from the costly dependence on Palestinian workers, it should not leave the employment of foreigners to the housing minister's discretion. It should immediately authorize the importation by private contractors of as many foreign laborers as are needed.

Nuclear roulette

NORTH Korea's silly nuclear games with the international community are probably the most tiresome diversion drifting in and out of the news. Yet the childish behavior of this pariah state needs watching as closely as a three-year-old with a box of matches.

The worst aspect of the artificial crisis is that it is setting nerves on edge among all North Korea's neighbors, diverting time and attention from the otherwise peaceful and encouraging drift of the Asians to prosperity and modernization. This nasty and cancerous little Stalinist dictatorship is contributing nothing to regional progress or to the development of its own people. Instead, as its economy collapses, its isolation increases, and its aging leadership rots in corruption, North Korea chooses to strut like a nuclear superpower. In fact, it is nothing more than a terrorist gangster which may be nuclear armed.

North Korea began its poker game in December 1985, when it signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but refused to sign a separate safeguards pact that would allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear plants. The reservation seemed a not-unreasonable bargaining chip, since the North said it would allow inspections if the US removed all nuclear weapons from South Korea. Taking this as a sign the North wished to engage in serious dialogue, Washington and Seoul duly declared the South cleared of nuclear weapons.

Rapid progress was made and within a year the North had signed the safeguards agreement allowing inspections, the two Koreas had set up a joint nuclear control committee, and deconstruction of a whole range of tensions was under way. However, the North stalled on physical inspections and in March 1993 announced it was pulling out of the NPT in protest at UN efforts to enforce the inspections to which it had already agreed.

Since then the North's conduct has been a travesty of accepted norms in international relations. In making and breaking agreements, accepting inspections and then harassing the UN experts, it has been following a Saddam Hussein textbook on how to be obnoxious. The catalogue of confrontations is long but the most recent example is typical. On May 21, the North invited the IAEA to examine the key refueling procedures at Yongbyon reprocessing reactor – the suspected center for diverting plutonium to a weapons program. Six days later, it prevented inspectors from analyzing the spent fuel.

The spurious rows over the North's breaches of an important and binding international treaty it has signed have been accompanied by belligerent threats and Saddam-like huffing and puffing. The real danger now is that life is so wretched and unstable in North Korea – as graphically reported by 22 North Korean defectors so far this year – that the country may be as unpredictable as a hungry rattlesnake. Japan's prime minister yesterday offered "as much aid as it wants" to North Korea if it would "open its heart." Whether it has a heart to open is debatable, but the West, especially Washington, must be ready to act fast and without hesitation at any sign that this dangerous snake is ready to strike.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAVING GAZA

Sir, – Some editorials should be treasured by the reader and their contents should be put to good use. Of that kind, I'd give top marks to your editorial of May 2, "Leaving Gaza." It is a detailed, data-filled, astounding-to-some refutation of the image of Gaza and its Arab inhabitants foisted upon the public by the callous and sensational media, and accepted with embarrassment by unsuspecting Jews and with joy by other Jews who wallow in self-condemnation. It seems that we have been "sold" by the media a highly exaggerated picture of an iniquitous occupation of a land which has become a symbol of destitution, overcrowded conditions, filth and degradation. I will, however, add a few more items:

1. There are very large fertile areas near Deir el-Balah which are nearly devoid of farming or habitation.

2. The land of most of the Jewish villagers was sand dunes, unwanted by the Arabs. Most of the crops are intensive, in greenhouses, not needing good soil.

3. Unwritten in the editorial is the fact that the birthrate of Gaza Arabs is among the very highest in the world, contributing to the economic difficulties for the families involved.

4. On the day that an Israeli vehicle crashed in the Gaza Strip, causing four Arab deaths and triggering the intifada, the rumor circulated that the Jews poisoned a well. That puts us back in medieval times, but the insult doesn't seem to have bothered Jewish breast-beaters.

5. While TV crews constantly home in on Arab youths and urchins throwing rocks while our forces respond with tear-gas, always in the most dilapidated slums, they never show the numerous Arab mansions.

6. The Israeli public should be reproached for one thing: the lack of simple observation and deduction. For instance, the *Post* editorial reports "the 98.9 percent electricity [in] all Gaza households and running water in 99.7 percent." It would have come as no surprise if the TV news viewer had noticed all those TV masts (ergo, electricity in the homes) and water boilers, sometimes with solar heaters, on roof-tops (ergo, running water).

Our wretched government makes no attempt to force or persuade Palestinian Arabs to admit to past lies and innuendos against Israel, and we may rest assured the Arabs will continue what seems to come naturally to them. It is therefore incumbent upon Israeli and Diaspora Jews to bring forth the truth in such things before the lies become irrevocably ingrained in people's minds. The editorial on "Leaving Gaza" is a bit late, but a welcome start.

PROFESSOR ROBERT KENNETH
Rishon Lezion.

OPPOSITION VIEWS

Sir, – As a new immigrant, I am a constant reader of *The Jerusalem Post,* not merely because it is the only English-language newspaper, but it is quite a good one by any standard: local news, international news, sport, theater, good articles, and may I mention the delightful Alex Berlyne. It is, however, on your own admission a right-wing paper espousing the views of the opposition. I must be fair and say you often print articles by government supporters and supporters of the peace process.

However, do you not think that you may be doing a gross disservice to our country? Your editorials and articles constantly talk of the vacillating, empty, fearful, backward-moving, inept, conceding, appeasing policy of the government. Now your paper is, as you well know, read all over the Arab world and analyzed carefully in order to establish our government's thinking and no doubt, many believe that what you say is true. So they think that if they push more and more, Israel will accept it meekly.

This government was elected by the people. I assure you that an election held now, with the government standing by its peace commitment, would result in its receiving an even greater majority, notwithstanding the noisy minority. So a little more cautious, concerned optimism would show a little more maturity.

DAVID BEBER
Netanya.



Strength in numbers

ERIC LEE

WITH the beginning of Palestinian autonomy and progress in negotiations with the Syrians, it's time for some fresh thinking about national defense.

The new era of Israeli-Arab relations comes with new risks and new opportunities. One way of minimizing those risks is for Israel to request membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace.

The idea sounds, at first hearing, crazy. After all, Israel has successfully defended itself for nearly half a century without a whole lot of foreign help. It has maintained a policy of neutrality in international conflicts. It has signed defense pacts with no one.

And NATO has historically shown no interest in getting involved in the complexities of the Middle East conflict. Inviting Israel to join would be provocative to the Syrians and Egyptians. And what assistance could Israel offer to the Western alliance? NATO is, after all, a North Atlantic alliance.

Finally, NATO appears to be totally ineffective these days. It allows a few companies of Bosnian Serbs to hold all of Europe at bay, and does nothing to prevent "ethnic cleansing" and Serbian aggression.

The idea of Israel joining NATO *does* sound crazy – but let's look at those arguments a little more carefully.

Recently, not only have all the Russophobic countries of Central and Eastern Europe come running to join the Partnership for Peace, but so have Sweden and Finland. And the Swedish case is a particularly interesting one for Israel.

Sweden has traditionally been neutral. It wasn't dragged into fighting either of the world wars. But its neutrality was an *armed* neutrality. Sweden had and has one of the toughest armed forces in Europe. Unlike Finland, which retained its independence from Russia by groveling to the Kremlin, Sweden maintained its national freedom through its strength.

So why is Sweden suddenly abandoning its neutrality and joining the Atlantic alliance? Because NATO is a great success story, in spite of the recent blows to its prestige in Bosnia. Because the simple fact is that NATO isn't being tested in Bosnia; it was tested in Berlin.

Israel applying for membership in NATO? Not so crazy, when you get to thinking about it

WHAT NATO has done is something no other military alliance in modern history was able to do: prevent aggression and wars for a half century on a continent which had hitherto never known peace.

NATO's formula for success was a simple one: an attack on one of its members was an attack on all. In NATO countries sharing borders with the USSR and its satellites, this meant real security, for the first time. The Moscow imperialists could do what they wanted within their own empire; but Soviet troops dared not lift a finger against relatively weak countries like Turkey – because the US, Britain and other powerful countries had guaranteed Turkey's safety.

NATO members didn't dissolve their own armed forces or give up their national sovereignty when they joined the alliance. Two NATO countries, Britain and France, even developed their own independent nuclear options. When NATO members like Britain needed to fight wars which were not connected to other NATO countries, like the Falklands war, they went ahead and did so. NATO membership is compatible with a strong army, an independent nuclear deterrent and an independent foreign policy.

One should not be deceived by the name of the organization either. Countries no longer have to be near the North Atlantic to join NATO. Politically, economically and culturally, Israel is already connected intimately to Europe.

With the collapse of Communism, it is becoming clear that the main military and political concerns of NATO will be dealing with the revival of ultra-nationalism in Eurasia – and containing the growth of Islamic fundamentalism.

Key NATO powers, including the US and Britain, are already in a virtual state of war with Iran, which the US State Department recently labeled the leading perpetrator of state-supported terror in the world. France too is now showing concern at developments in Algeria, where the threat of Islamic fundamentalism is very real. For several years now, a number of NATO countries have been a hair's breadth away from war with Libya.

The Gulf War should have taught Israel a lesson about the realities of global geopolitics in the new era.

Our only weapon in the war against Iraq, had we joined the fray, was our air force. Israel could have bombed Iraq. It might even have used nuclear weapons against Iraq, though this is unlikely. But there was no way for the IDF to have defeated the Iraqi army in the field.

To have done that, Israel would have had to move its entire army across Jordan and Iraq's Western desert. The US, on the other hand, mobilized its airlift and sealift resources and within 20 weeks of preparation had an enormous army in place on the Iraqi border, which defeated Saddam's army in 100 hours of ground warfare.

The time has come to think about Israel's national security in the near and distant futures. No one should have any illusions about a love affair between the Jewish state and Syria, for example. Even if Israel returns the Golan and makes peace, we will need to maintain a strong and vigilant defense.

Other nations – and not only Sweden, but Britain and France as well – have acknowledged that in this dangerous world, it is best for democracies to stick together.

It would be nice to know that the next time some Arab dictator decides to "liberate Jerusalem" he will have to deal not only with the might of the IDF, but with the concentrated power of the US and its NATO partners.

The writer, a member of Kibbutz Ein Dor, is co-author of Desert Storm *(Empire Press, 1991).*

Songs of praise to Peres

RAEL JEAN ISAAC

IT must say something about Foreign Minister Peres that many of Israel's chief enemies now consider him worthy of recognition.

On May 24, US organizations with a long history of lobbying against Israel and its American supporters feted him and the PLO's Abu Ala at the Washington Hilton, and gave them both a peace award.

One sponsor of the dinner was the Council for the National Interest, led by former congressman Paul Findley. Its declared aim is to neutralize the influence of AIPAC, which, it claims, has stifled dissent in the US.

In 1985, Findley published *They dare to speak out, accusing* AIPAC of consistently acting against US interests. In an updated 1989 edition, Findley described Israel as "a foreign state that infiltrates and corrupts the US political process, hires spies to steal classified documents, lies repeatedly to our highest officials, reneges on solemn promises, and, to an alarming degree, undercuts our national security interests to suit its own purposes."

Last month, Findley declared that "the responsibility for the Hebron massacre must be shared by Israel and the US leadership." His organization's "ultimate goals are to have the US stop aid to Israel by 1998, see the settlements dismantled and return the Palestinians to their homeland."

Among the dinner's other sponsors:

• Arab-American Institute: In 1994, it attacked as "discriminatory" legislation which would identify Hamas as a terrorist organization. James Zogby, its head, has consistently attacked AIPAC, accusing Congress of pandering to AIPAC and saying congressmen and US political parties "are pressured to make these hysterical statements on behalf of Israel." Once pro-Israel money can no longer buy votes, says Zogby, the shell of pro-Israel support will crumble.

• ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid): Most of ANERA's money has traditionally come from oil companies. It has lobbied against US aid to Israel, repeatedly accusing Israel of violating international law and human rights.

• Foundation for Middle East Peace: Founded by Merle Thorpe, senior partner in a law firm that was the registered foreign agent for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This organization publishes anti-Israel articles, sponsors pro-PLO films and has contributed funds to organizations like American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism.

• The National Association of Arab-Americans: Jawad George, executive director, has argued that under US law, Israel's nefarious activities "ought to disqualify [it] from receiving any US assistance whatsoever." In 1989, at its annual convention, this organization honored Abu Jihad, mastermind of the Munich massacre, "for distinguished service to the Arab cause." Its president, George Salem, is currently seeking to stave off congressional efforts to pressure Arab states to lift their boycott of Israel.

• The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS): A radical left think tank in Washington. As early as 1976, an editorial in the IPS publication *Race and Class* deplored the possibility of any accord being reached between Israel and the Arab states because this would presuppose "the defusion of revolutionary Arab nationalism in general and Palestinian resistance in particular."

• Friends Committee on National Legislation: This group has repeatedly complained that Congress ignores Israel's "consistent pattern of gross violation of internationally recognized human rights."

• Mercy Corps: Led by anti-Israel activist Don Wagner (formerly head of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign), this group demands prompt "Israeli military withdrawal... a settlement freeze, particularly in East Jerusalem; Palestinian control of the two international border crossings" in order "to salvage the peace process."

This is just a sample of the anti-Israel groups that organized the dinner. That they should honor Shimon Peres is a strong indication that they see his policies as serving Arab interests, not those of Israel.

The writer is a member of the executive board of Americans for a Safe Israel.

Regional response

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

FOR all the hyperbolic use of such terms as genocide and holocaust to describe Bosnia, the worst violence on earth today is occurring in Rwanda. Unlike Bosnia, where the combatants are fighting over 4 or 6 or 9 percent more territory, in Rwanda the issue is not territory but existence.

This is a tribal war of extermination, of mass murder at a Hitlerian rate. Between 200,000 and 400,000 have been massacred in seven weeks – as many as have died in all two years of the Bosnian civil war.

Yet Bosnia has a vocal, articulate constituency. Rwanda has none. Bosnians are white. European, familiar. Rwandans are black. African, foreign. For Western intellectuals, Sarajevo evokes Spanish Civil War romance. Kigali evokes nothing more than Heart of Darkness nihilism.

It is a curious humanitarianism, however, that advocates humanitarian intervention on grounds of familiarity, race and romance. What counts is the scale of the violence and the suffering. Rwanda is the one unequivocal case of genocide occurring in the world today and genocide demands intervention.

But by whom?

The best answer is a regional force drawn from African countries. Three African states – Ghana, Senegal and Ethiopia – have already volunteered troops for Rwanda peacekeeping. One wishes, however, that one particular African state – the leading African state – were on that list too.

South Africa could take the lead in salvaging the wreck of Rwanda

South Africa is sub-Saharan Africa's regional superpower, an advanced industrialized country with a powerful army and the proven ability to fight far from home. It is doubly blessed by having such an army now commanded by the man who carries more moral authority than any national leader on the planet, Nelson Mandela.

AS THE leading black African state, South Africa should be granted the authority – and most urgently encouraged – to lead an African response to an African tragedy.

Only South Africa has the power and prestige to head a regional intervention into Rwanda. It would be objected, of course, that the new South Africa, barely weeks old, has other problems. This would be yet another added to a full plate.

True. But all countries have problems, and Rwanda's neighbors all have full plates. Which is why they turn away and Rwandan genocide goes on unchecked without the most minimal outside effort to do anything beyond evacuating whites. (That was done immediately.)

Moreover, intervention need not mean active participation in Rwanda's civil war. Entering Kigali with the intention of stopping the war and separating the combatants is too ambitious and difficult an objective. The most urgent need, as the relief agencies on the scene have insisted, is far less dangerous and costly: the establishment of havens to feed and protect those threatened with massacre.

The outside world could help South Africa by lightening the economic burdens of leadership. South Africa is already reducing military expenditure. Why doesn't the world community, through, say, a financial pool established by the G-7 countries, create a fund for those units of the South African army dedicated to African peacekeeping?

One could even imagine South Africa being given eventual trusteeship of a place like Rwanda. At the time of Somalia's crackup, trusteeship was raised as a way of establishing effective and internationally recognized authority over failed states like Somalia.

But tinged as it is with the memory of imperialism, trusteeship by the Great Powers would not have a chance of gaining worldwide support. Trusteeship by a country like South Africa would. And there is a precedent. After World War I, the white government of South Africa was given trusteeship over the former German colony of Southwest Africa (today Namibia). Why not grant the majority black government of South Africa trusteeship over some of the wreckages of the post-colonial era?

But what if South Africa declines to lead in Rwanda? Then America should step in as the last resort. Somalia again? Yes, but this time America does it right: in and out in 90 days. No nation-building fantasies, just rescue and protection. Create the havens, then turn them over to the multinational African force.

Genocide demands no less.

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Dissonance over ICO director

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THERE'S never a dull moment at the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Half a year after violinist/conductor Shlomo Mintz left the orchestra in the middle of his term as music adviser – with a notable absence of tears – orchestra members are at the barricades.

They objected strenuously when it was announced a few weeks ago that young Israeli conductor Menahem Nebenhaus, who was house conductor at the ICO, was to be appointed music director.

Musicians went so far as to organize a protest concert last week on the plaza by the Tel Aviv Museum.

"We aren't going to give up. Nebenhaus will not be our music director," said one musician, who declined to be identified for fear of losing his job.

"We have worked with Nebenhaus and know exactly what he's worth. He can't be our music director, it's ridiculous," said another.

But chairman of the ICO board Hezi Shelach is standing firm.

"The musicians should have no actual say in choosing the music director," says Shelach. "They can convey their concerns and ideas. But it is the board's job to make the choice."

Situations differ worldwide. Some orchestras give their members a free hand in choosing a music director. Some boards appoint a search committee. But very few boards decide such matters by themselves.

"The players won't admit it," Shelach says, "but the only reason they object to Nebenhaus is because he's Israeli and young – and I think it's outrageous."

He goes on to explain that there are two kinds of music directors in today's world. "There is the superstar who works with the orchestra occasionally and has a big name. We had such a music director and it was bad for everyone. So now we want to try a different approach."

Nebenhaus will not take the orchestra on tour, says Shelach, "at least not yet, before he has an international name." And he won't conduct many concerts each year. "His responsibility will be to build the orchestra and its audience – and I sincerely believe he can do it."

Conducting abilities and podium charisma aren't the issues here, says Shelach. "I think the orchestra is afraid because they know Nebenhaus will make them work very hard."

Shelach isn't angry with the musicians who protested the board's decision. He will not let the ICO shut down over any disagreement. "I will step down if necessary," he says. "But the orchestra will continue to work."

She sings for their suppers

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

DES'REE is a beguiling Londoner whose roots reach back to the Caribbean island of Barbados.

Her new album *I Ain't Movin'* (NMC) is as easy on the ear as her appearance is on the eye, but this is no bimbo act. There is plenty of substance under the gift wrapping.

Few pop singers have a new way of dealing with world hunger, anger and the simple truth that "Down, down in the city/ love ain't always pretty." What Des'ree brings to content reminiscent of Tracy Chapman is a shimmering femininity that constantly demonstrates that soft is strong.

Working with a number of songwriting collaborators, this 25-year-old has managed to forge a musical statement which is both soothing and empowering. One hears shades of Stevie Wonder and Joan Armatrading in her style and yet she has managed to come up with a smooth yet taut rhythm of her own. It is delicate, like "Delicate," her recent hit duet with Terence Trent D'Arby, but far from sugary.

Not many people could get away with creating a radio-friendly number out of "Little Child," a flamenco-inflected lament written on her way home from a UNICEF charity event: "Mothers die, leaving hungry mouths behind/ They can't hold on when God wants them by his side/ It's up to me/ It's up to you."

Des'ree doesn't go so far as to give political recipes, preferring to advise us: "Visualize and pray is what we mustn't forget to do." Yet when she covers the album with images of a rocky Africa, insisting that "Babies scream, babies scream" and "This can't go down as another disaster in history," she does her bit in cracking through denial and indifference. Des'ree has a kind of spirituality that is tough rather than sappy, which will probably take her far.



ROYAL VISIT – The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has been displaying a light touch of late. After its popular Andrew Lloyd Webber concert last week, the IPO has another treat for aficionados of light classics. On June 18 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, it presents a special concert with the King's Singers, the amiable British sextet that sings anything from madrigals to Beatles tunes. In its appearance here, the group will perform French and English madrigals, folk songs and five Beatles numbers. If they keep to form, there'll also be a medley of encores. (Text: *Michael Ajzenstadt*)

Ukraine folk dance gets fresh new spin

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

WITH about 100 beautiful people on stage at the Jerusalem International Convention Center on May 27 to take their bows, the National Ballet of Ukraine, known worldwide as the Virsky, made its visit one of the great events of the Israel Festival, or any festival.

The expected gopaks, the traditional Cossacks, in fact the whole gamut of folkloristic wonders were there in a new and marvelous freshness of attack, liveliness, skill and strength.

The barrel leaps went around the stage at incredible speed. The spins went on at incredible length, and one dancer turned so fast that he was always facing forward. Nobody ever looked breathless.

Yet just when all the dazzling virtuosity and even the sheer perfection of the gesture and jump went beyond what seemed humanly possible, there were touches that made the show captivating beyond compare.

There was the arm swing upwards and the shouts of pride by the men after a special feat, and the swift bow of the head by a line of them to acknowledge applause – as in the finest days of politesse.

As for the lovely women, they wore their peasant tiaras like queens, hopped and skipped like any hoydens when required, and, moving like fairies, could give the scene a new spell. There was only one word for it: superb.

BAUHAUS is no idle word in this country. Architects in early Tel Aviv days built according to its tenets.

More recently, super-dancer Rina Schenfeld applied Bauhaus theory and practice when she used long sticks and metal sheets in her performances.

Now a visiting company from Germany calling itself Theater Der Klange (Theater of Sound) has appeared at the Suzanne Dellal Center in two works, one based on the Bauhaus idea.

The Bauhaus-inspired work was a gimmick, while the second, performed by seven dancers of admirable technique, tended to be rather monotonous. Both were choreographed by Jorg U. Lensing.

May 26's *Dance at the Bauhaus* (subtitled "mechanical ballet") was based on an idea of the 1920s by Bauhaus student Kurt Schmidt, and performed by panels of various colors fixed together but making shapes approximating human forms.

They made bizarre moves that looked like talking and embracing. In the end they were shown to be strapped to live dancers.

The second work, *Figure and Sound*, involved seven live dancers making geometric patterns in front of a video screen on which were flashed words like "abstract" and "technique" (in German) while they performed smartly and strenuously.

WITH the exquisite sophistication of Japanese classical dance, of which she is a master, Timi Kedar gave a demonstration of the age-old "language" of Japanese movement – as in Kabuki, Noh etc. – at the Zionist Confederation House in Jerusalem on May 23.

It was her first public appearance since her return from Australia where her husband had been Israel's ambassador, and it reaffirmed that again after her years away, she had brought back with her something whose seeming simplicity demands a power and concentration of control.

Only such absolute ability can give the Japanese dance idiom such an easy-looking grace of head and hand, feet and form.

Graham is crackers for Gershwin

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

ELIZABETH Graham has both her heart and mind set on George Gershwin.

Not only does she sing the title female role in *Porgy and Bess*, but Graham also has a Ph.D. based on her study of the beloved opera.

"One of the fascinating things about Gershwin is how he absorbed the essence of the blues and the gospel and all the idioms that make up black music and incorporated it with a classical style and made it a real American piece," says Graham.

She will be sharing the role of Bess in a series of performances June 9-18 in the Roman Amphitheater in Caesarea, as part of the Israel Festival.

The production, like the opera itself, originates in Charleston, South Carolina.

"The main reason this production is special is because many South Carolina people are involved in it and it's like it belongs to them," notes Graham in a phone conversation from her Florida home.

"If we can mount a production that is successful in Charleston, with the people there looking at it and criticizing it – and they have seen many productions – then we feel we have a good show."

While the entire cast is coming from the US, it's not yet clear if the orchestra will accompany them to Caesarea.

"We are not sure if the entire orchestra will come here, but we are sure that the winds and brass will arrive and we might find string players locally," the festival's artistic director Micah Lewensohn said in a press conference earlier this month.

"But in any case their conductor will come earlier and rehearse with the orchestra."

The production will also be using a locally constructed set and not the original one which was designed for an indoor performance.

Graham notes that she has sung in many outdoor theater productions, "and I'm sure *Porgy* will work outdoors very well. I hear it is a very beautiful place you have there."

She has number of *Porgy* performances under her belt and says this one is "more intimate, so people work together. It's kind of a community thing."

Graham shares the role with two other singers and says a night off is always most welcome.

"I give a lot on stage and I need the rest," she says. "Each of us brings a different perspective to the role, so it does look different almost every night. And I feel I have something I bring which is unique to me."

Bess is a "most interesting woman and very complex," she says. "I've been told many times that I'm complex, so there are elements we have in common."

'Ninth' marks a first for TAU Academy of Music

CONCERT ROUNDUP

IN honor of the annual meeting of Tel Aviv University's Board of Governors, the Academy of Music mobilized all its available forces to celebrate the occasion with a grand event, the performance of Beethoven's "Ninth."

Such a project would have been unthinkable until now, and for mounting it successfully the Academy must be warmly congratulated. What we saw on stage was rather amazing: 90 members of the Academy Symphony Orchestra and a 100-chorister-strong choir.

It should be hoped that this success will not only mark the consolidation of the Academy's position as an important institution on the campus, but will also signal the beginning of expansion and development.

Though there were a great number of unnecessary mishaps in the orchestra, conductor Noam Sheriff brought sweeping drive, enthusiasm and dynamism to the performance, and the rousing final bars of the finale brought the house down.

For preparing the huge choir meticulously and accurately, full credit goes to choir director Avner Itai. The four excellent soloists, soprano Marina Shemesh, alto Bracha Kol, tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov and baritone David Daniniani – all coached by Tamar Rahum – also deserve unqualified praise.

Noga Theater, Jaffa, May 23.

Benjamin Bar-Am

CONDUCTING the Israel Chamber Orchestra in its new subscription concert, conductor Joseph Swensen left no doubt that he is a winner.

His temperament, limitless enthusiasm and assertiveness are irresistible. Though his conducting movements are extremely extroverted and occasionally seem grossly exaggerated, as in the second Mozart item, the Adagio and Fugue in C minor, for instance, musical results were remarkable.

The orchestra gave him all he wanted and played with renewed energy and devotion. Though gesticulating wildly, his instructions seemed the result of profound inner feeling.

Swensen started with a remarkable interpretation of Charles Ives's *The Unanswered Question*. The performance was so beautiful that it can only be described as an illuminating, acoustic manifestation of Ives's abstract philosophical idea.

As the next item, Swensen fully supported, complemented and strengthened David Golub's wonderful performance of Mozart's C Major, K.503 piano concerto. Golub's full-blooded, almost Beethovenian conception of the concerto left a deep impression.

For the final item, Swensen chose the hackneyed *Transfigured Night* by Schoenberg and the very prospect of having to listen again to this pseudo-Tristanian, wearisome piece was reason for despair. But from the first bar onwards, the audience listened with fascination and admiration. Swensen's interpretation was one of the most beautiful ever heard by this critic.

Tel Aviv Museum, May 25.

Benjamin Bar-Am

THE most interesting item on the first program of the Vermeer Quartet (Shmuel Ashkenasi, Mathias Tacke, Richard Young, Marc Johnson) was Gyorgy Kurtag's 12 *Microludes*.

Their extreme brevity – less than two minutes each – results in concentrated extracts of musical ideas, contrasting with each other, and seeming to end even before they actually begin, leaving the listener with a feeling of acute tension without relief.

The evening's highlight was Beethoven's Quartet op. 131, whose human and spiritual qualities found full and sensitive expression in Vermeer's rendition.

They produce a velvety, soft sound, playing vibrantly with intense emotional involvement, and abounding in dynamic nuances.

This was playing of a sort that made Tchaikovsky's Quartet No. 2 sound almost more attractive than it actually is.

The rarefied atmosphere of the Beethoven work was deplorably spoiled by Puccini's saccharine *Chrysanthemes* as a sobering encore.

Jerusalem Theater, May 28.

Ury Eppstein

RUSSIAN Opera at the Israel Sinfonietta found overflowing response among Beersheba's concert-going public, many of them immigrants from the former USSR.

The Sinfonietta went all out, amplifying the Negev chamber orchestra to full operatic dimensions with the addition of horns, trombone and tuba.

Russian opera is rarely heard in our opera houses and it is difficult to say why, since its lyric and dramatic pathos engage the listener no less than traditional Italian, French or German opera. Perhaps it is the language? If it does cross over, however, undoubtedly Israel will be the cultural bridge linking East and West.

Soprano soloist Elvira Breiman and tenor Boris Yarofiev brought strong colorful voices employed with cultivated refinement in arias from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and *Iolanthe*.

Basso Boris Agayev is not only a marvelous soloist, possessing a deep, colorful, flexible voice, but also a real singing actor whose magnetic presence and dramatic flair brought arias from Borodin's *Prince Igor* and Rachmaninov's youthful *Aleko* to life.

Guest conductor Mark Gorenstein (Russia) managed to keep the orchestra moving in Glinka's *Russlan and Ludmilla Overture* and closed the evening with Tchaikovsky's classic *Waltz of the Flowers*. Israel Ouval, translator from the New Israeli Opera, provided a running on-stage commentary troughout the evening.

Beersheba Conservatory, May 28

Max Stern

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	3	GLIKERIA	LIVE
#2	/	1	EYFO HAYELED	DEMONS
#3	7	15	DAVID BROZA	MASSADA
#4	4	2	ZIKNEI TZFAT	ZIKNEI TZFAT
#5	14	24	ACHINOAM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#6	3	4	TOP POP 1994	VOLUME 3
#7	6	13	MARIAH CAREY	MUSIC BOX
#8	10	6	NICK CAVE	LET LOVE IN
#9	5	2	CRASH TEST DUMMY	GOD SHUFFLED HIS FEET
#10	16	34	SHLOMO ARTZI	COMPLETE COMPILATION
#11	11	8	BJORK	DEBUT
#12	8	34	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#13	/	1	VOLUME	VOLUME 4
#14	17	3	AEROSMITH	GET A GRIP
#15	/	RE	LOVE FOREVER	VOLUME 4

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE – re-entry

Making sweet music together

On June 2, from Galilee to the Negev, there will be 522 separate music or dance events in both the Jewish and Arab school sectors.

It's all part of Music and Dance Day, initiated and organized jointly by the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Arts Authority in the Ministry of Science and Communications.

Events include the finals of the youth choirs competition, a countrywide choir competition for art songs, and a piano recital with young players aged 4-17. There will also be a school production of Mozart's opera *Bastien at Bastienne* and performances by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Ballet and the Batsheva Ensemble.

Helen Kaye



Today at the festival

JERUSALEM THEATER
Sherover ☐ Marie Chouinard – dance, 8 p.m.
Henry Crown ☐ Chaurasia – Indian flute music, 8:30 p.m.
Rebecca Crown ☐ Clem Clempson – blues guitar, 10 p.m.
ICC (BINYENEI HA'UMA) ☐ Laterna Magika – multimedia, 8:30 p.m.
DORMITION ABBEY ☐ Jean Claude Mara – pan flute, 8:30 p.m.
CAESAREA AMPHITHEATER ☐ Virski, Ukrainian National Ballet, 9 p.m.
HAIFA THEATER ☐ Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for most performances: Jerusalem Theater (02) 610011; fax orders (02) 662153.

It's us against them in this staging of 'Merchant'

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

By William Shakespeare. Translation, A. Oz. Direction, Omri Nitzan. Set and costumes, R. Dar. Music, O. Vidislavsky. At the Cameri Theater. Hebrew title, *Hasoher Mi'Venezia*.

Shylock ..... Yossi Graber
Antonio ..... Eli Danker
Gratiano ..... Rami Baruch
Bassanio ..... Rafi Weinstock

Everyone is asking, "well, how is it?"

Answer: it isn't.

This is not Shakespeare's *Merchant*, not by a long shot. Despite the use of the original text (trivialized in translation), despite a voluptuous set (miles of crimson velvet), despite an almost all-star cast, it teeters between spectacular show-biz and pure parody. Certain to placate a particular strata of Jewish spectator, it all but baffles the serious student of Shakespeare.

If you can't act it, sing it; if you can't sing it, dance it.

Here, for a change, they do all three, to rock rhythms, no less. Nitzan's very pious Jews excepted, the players are all got up in a mix of Rehov Sheinkin-style razzle dazzle and rock-band renaissance that puts Elizabethan elegance in the shade.

Eye-catching? That's about all. As a central concept it is hardly novel. For centuries great actors and scholars have insisted that with the *Merchant*, Shakespeare offered a challenge to contemporary conventions regarding usury and the villainous Jew. His complex hero has long been seen as a humanized interpretation of the Elizabethan Shylock figure.

Nitzan, however, carries this still-controversial concept to extremes. For him, all is black and white. His Jews are gentle, genial souls sorely tried by the blows and humiliations of a depraved society of rowdy, debauched Gentiles. Shylock is a pious, prayerful modern merchant in a pinstripe suit and gray suede shoes while Antonio, part-time playboy, is a probable homosexual.

Jessica, the Jew's daughter, as trendy as the rest, naturally undergoes multiple rape at the hands of the Gratiano gang. Bassanio, their leading light, is a regular rock hero matched with a fitting consort in Portia, played here by Meirav Gruber as a Tel Aviv tart.

In short, a reversal of dynamics calculated to solace audiences still smarting under the fancied injustice inflicted by Shakespeare's supposedly antisemitic hero.

Concepts are fine but onstage it's the execution that counts. Nitzan fails to work his out. Obstructed by the happy ending, he cannot carry his to a logical conclusion. In the text it's the wicked that win while Shylock, the loser, is consigned to oblivion, i.e. conversion to Christianity.

Despite Nitzan's tendentious approach the play continues to belong to the genre of Romantic comedy, never to Jewish tragedy.

With your help, Yossi's having a great time this summer.



Many children in Israel simply can't afford a holiday during the school vacation.
The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund would like to send as many underprivileged children as possible from distressed neighbourhoods to day-camp at local community centres.
There are hundreds of children who will not be able to experience three sun-filled weeks this summer without additional contributions from our readers.

Please give generously.

Contributions can be mailed directly to The Jerusalem Post P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

THE JERUSALEM POST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

8 TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1994

Hapoalim's net profits rise

BANK Hapoalim yesterday reported a rise in first quarter net profit to NIS 128.9 million for the first quarter from a NIS 7.5m. net profit in the corresponding period last year.

The bank's net profit last year included a one-time provision for taxes of NIS 90.4m. due to changes in legislation on the banking system.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Net return on equity grew to 11.4% from 0.7%.

The rise in profitability was due to the continued increase in operating income – which went up 9.7% to NIS 107.5m. – and a 3.1% rise in financing profit before provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 466m.

Hapoalim said the inclusion, for the first time, of the bank's share in the profits of Koor, and those from Ampal American Israel Corp's offering on the American Stock Exchange, contributed to its positive results.

Provisions for doubtful debts increased 17.9% to NIS 211.8m. from NIS 179.6m.

Operating income went up 6.2% to NIS 462.3m. from NIS 435.3m. Operating expenses rose to NIS 562m. from NIS 523.6m. Shareholders equity rose 2.6% to NIS 4.84b.

Credit to the public increased to NIS 57.6b. from NIS 57.4b. Deposits from the public fell 0.7% to NIS 64b.

'S' indicator falls 0.2%

THE Bank of Israel's "S", or state of the economy indicator, fell 0.2 percent in April, as the closure of the territories nearly shut down construction.

The preliminary figures released yesterday follow an increase of 1% in March.

During the first third of the year, the index rose 2.6%, as it did during the last third of 1993.

JOSE ROSENFELD

The Bank of Israel reported that April's index also reflected moderation in private consumption.

Retail sales, a good consumption indicator, dropped 1.3% last month.

The central bank originally reported last month that March sales had shot up 5.6%, but they underestimated them – despite efforts to account for seasonal factors, such as Pessah sales.

As a result, they corrected those figures downward by 7.5%, turning March's rise into a 1.4% drop.

Imports increased 2.8%, after falling by 7% in March.

Industrial production dropped 1.7%, while the number of jobs in the business sector rose 0.2% in March.

Israel Discount posts rise in net earnings

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Discount Bank reported a 109.9 percent rise in first quarter net earnings to NIS 28.9 million from NIS 13.77m. from the corresponding period last year.

First quarter profits last year included tax provisions of NIS 20m. due to the bank's share of subsidiary Mercantile Discount Bank's profits from previous years.

The net return on shareholders equity increased to 4.3% on an annual basis from 2.1%. Net operating income fell 14% to NIS 28.6m.

Management said the results were influenced by the unequal distribution of its operating expenses over the months of the year. The results were also influenced by provisions for Discount's severance fund.

Income from financial operations before provisions for doubtful debts declined 3.9% to NIS 291.5m. from NIS 306.7m.

Total assets increased to NIS 52.8m. from NIS 52.6m.

Credit to the public rose 3.5% to NIS 23.6b. from the end of last year. Deposits from the public rose to NIS 41.4b. from NIS 40.4b.

Discount Mortgage Bank, a subsidiary of Israel Discount Bank, completed the first quarter with a rise in net profits to NIS 6.19m. from NIS 5.94m. in the same period last year.

FIBI Holding, a holding company and First International Bank's parent company, reported an 8.9% growth in first quarter net profits to NIS 18.4m. from NIS 16.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

First International Bank's share of the profits accounted for about 80% of total earnings, amounting to NIS 14.5m.

The remaining NIS 3m. stemmed from Dikla, a mutual fund company owned by FIBI. Net return on equity, on an annual basis, was 11.5%.

Economy slows, reverses earlier '94 gains

ECONOMIC activity slowed down significantly during March and April, reversing dramatic gains during the first two months of the year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports, excluding diamonds, fell 11 percent compared to a 27.5% rise in the first two months of the year.

Goods imports dropped 34.3% in the past two months, while jumping 100.4% in January and February. Consumer imports decreased a more moderate 22.9%, following a 77.2% rise in the previous two months.

The strongest reversal was experienced in industrial machinery and equipment imports, which shot up 320% during the first two months of the year, only to fall by 61.6% in March and April.

Similarly, industrial input imports dropped by 32.6% after rising 69.7%.

Cement sales – a good indicator of construction activity – fell a dramatic 81% during February and March.

JOSE ROSENFELD

This shows that building was slowing down even before the government renewed its closure of the territories in April.

On the positive side, industrial activity picked up 4% in February and March. Retail trade remained virtually flat during March and April, inching up a mere 0.5% following a jump of 35.1% in the previous two months.

The sharp reversal in the economy's fortunes did not surprise Bank of Israel economists.

According to Rafi Melnick, the central bank's deputy director of research, the economic boom experienced during the first quarter was not sustainable. It was primarily fueled by the optimism of the peace agreement with the Palestinians and fed by the bullish stock market at the end of last year.

Melnick sees in these figures, as well as the central bank's "S" indicator, a first sign of an economic downturn.

He attributes the change to three factors: the closure of the territories, the uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the peace agreement and the drop in stock market prices.

Melnick estimates that the closure will have a stronger impact this year than it did last year, as most of the replacements of territories workers with Israelis were already made last year.

With lower unemployment, it will be more difficult to find Israelis to take the jobs of missing workers from the territories.

The ups and downs of the peace agreement are expected to dampen the business sector's optimism and its participation in economic activity.

Although vigorous economic activity during the first quarter pushed the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) up 7.5% according to figures released by the bureau yesterday, Melnick sticks to the central bank's prediction that GDP will only grow 5% this year based on the factors that are leading to the present economic downturn.

Private consumption jumped 12.3% in the first quarter, representing a 9.9% rise per capita.

Consumption of durable goods shot up 22.4%. Business capital investments rose 21.1%, while housing construction fell 3.3%.

Exports, excluding diamonds, increased 10.2%, while imports, excluding diamonds, jumped 18.3%.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nigeria offers to sell oil to Israel: Nigeria has offered to sell oil to Israel, the Energy Ministry announced yesterday. The offer was made to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal by Nigerian Oil Minister Don Etiabit during a Sunday night meeting of the international oil conference in Norway.

During the meeting, Shahal also spoke with the OPEC secretary-general, suggesting that Persian Gulf oil could be transported via Israeli pipelines to European carriers. The Gulf countries, according to Shahal, could save some $250 million a year by transporting oil overland to Israeli ports, instead of shipping it.

Iveco looking for local suppliers of car parts: Iveco, one of the largest European heavy truck manufacturers, is looking for local suppliers of car parts at the request of the Industrial Cooperation Authority, which ensures that foreign firms with significant sales here offset them with local purchases.

The company's deputy managing director, Gabrielle Terzi, visited Ashot Ashkelon, Dganit Silicon, Sinus and Iskar and met with representatives of 10 other firms. Iveco has 10 percent of the local heavy truck market.

Bank Carmel introduces new mortgage plan: Bank Carmel, the independent mortgage bank, has introduced the country's first long-term, unlinked, set interest rate mortgage, managing director Rami Avivi announced yesterday.

To accumulate the capital for the mortgages the bank is also introducing unlinked deposits at high interest rates, he said. For example, it will pay 12 percent annually for a one- to two-year deposit, with interest being calculated monthly.

Average Rosh Hashana work gift expected to be about NIS 300: Ve'adim, the labor relations journal, reported that the average Rosh Hashana gift in the workplace this year will be between NIS 280 and NIS 330, including gifts from both management and workers committees.

According to a Ve'adim survey, electronics and fashion watches will lead the preference list, with compact disk players a popular choice for big-budget companies.

The total expenditure on Rosh Hashana gifts this year is estimated at an unprecedented $140m., representing a 27% rise over purchases last year. Ve'adim will sponsor a holiday gift fair on July 4 and 5 at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds.

Ve'adim's survey found that the biggest gifts, NIS 880 worth, will be enjoyed by employees of Haifa Chemicals (from management and staff committee together).

Kadosh calls for open skies to Eilat after Arkia raises fares

HAIM SHAPIRO

EILAT Mayor Gabi Kadosh yesterday called for an end to Arkia's monopoly in providing domestic flights to his city following an the company's increase in fares.

The increase, approved by the Finance and Transport ministries, raised the price of a one-way ticket for Eilat residents from NIS 134 to NIS 142.

At the same time, the full-fare price for non-residents of Eilat, went from NIS 198 to NIS 206.

"For us, the flights are not a luxury," said Eilat municipal spokeswoman Michal Meir Saar, adding that often local residents had to go to the center of the country for family reasons or medical treatment.

For a family of four to go to a wedding, the combined fares would be more than NIS 1,000, she said.

Meir Saar added that the reduction, in the form of a government subsidy, had dropped from 60 percent of the ticket to only 4%.



Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh

On the other hand, Galilee residents, who were less cut off, receive a 15% subsidy on plane fares.

If competing airlines came on the scene, the competition would force the fares down, she said.

Meir Saar said at least one entrepreneur had approached the municipality with a proposal to set up a competing airline.

Another possibility would be that the Eilat Economic Corporation, which is associated with the municipality, would organize air service.

In response, Arkia spokeswoman Magda Kalanter said the government's contribution to the Eilat residents' discount was only NIS 4.40, while the company bore the rest of the cost.

The government had in fact approved a residents' fare of NIS 148, rather than the NIS 142 the company is charging, Kalanter said.

"The anger is unjustly directed at us," she said, adding that the Eilat residents should be asking the government to increase the subsidy.

Clal reports 57% drop in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CLAL Israel yesterday reported a 57 percent fall in first quarter net profits to NIS 29.2 million from NIS 68.4m. during the corresponding period last year.

The decrease in profitability was mainly due to a 41% drop in other income to NIS 31.3m. from NIS 53.29m.

The lower profits were also due to losses from capital market investments. Clal registered a loss of NIS 24m. from its investments in tradeable securities and an additional NIS 8.8m. loss from its investments in tradeable bonds.

Capital gains fell to NIS 21m. from NIS 27m. in the corresponding period last year. Management forecast an additional loss of NIS 10m. as a result of its investments in securities.

In the reported period, Clal's sales rose 25% to NIS 990m. from NIS 793.1m. The rise in sales was attributed mainly to sales from its industrial investments, which was merged for the first time into the accounts, following its purchase from the Ofer Brothers.

Clal's industrial division contributed NIS 24m. to the holding company's net profits, compared with NIS 30m. in the corresponding period last year. The drop in profits was mainly due to lower earnings in Scitex, ETL and Urdan.

Harish: FTA talks with Europe head for crisis

NEGOTIATIONS for a new Free Trade Agreement with the European Union are heading for a crisis, should the Europeans continue to refuse making concrete improvements in trade relations, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish warned yesterday.

Harish, who plans to leave today for three days of meetings with EU commissioners in Brussels, will attempt to get the talks back on track.

"I want to see in which areas there is a good chance for progress and which areas will bring us to a crisis," Harish said.

According to Harish, the Europeans want to reward Israel for its contribution to the peace process.

JOSE ROSENFELD

but they find themselves hard put by their economic recession.

He said an agreement that fails to hack away at the $6.5 billion trade deficit is of no interest to him.

Harish wants the Europeans to open their markets to Israeli exports by giving Israeli products similar treatment to the one afforded to European exports in the areas of rules of origin and raw materials processed in third countries.

Currently, instead of including European components as part of the contents which qualify Israeli exports for preferential treatment, they are considered foreign components, thereby disqualifying those exports from enjoying trade benefits.

The Europeans have refused so far to allow Israel to compete for government telecommunications contracts. Under the recently concluded Uruguay round, Israel agreed to sign a government procurement agreement which opens local government tenders to foreign companies.

However, telecommunications was left to a separate agreement to be negotiated with the Europeans. Since the European have not been willing to open their telecommunications sector to Israel, Harish did not sign the government procurement agreement.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim refuses to sell Histadrut's assets

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut leadership and Hevrat Ha'ovdim's management are at odds over the proposal to sell some of the Histadrut's financial assets to raise money to save Kupat Holim.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim's management told outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld it will refuse to sell the shares, after that possibility was raised at the Histadrut's executive bureau meeting on Sunday.

The executive bureau will ask the government's approval for selling shares in Koor and Bank Hapoalim as part of the Histadrut's effort to muster NIS 180 million for Kupat Holim, providing that the Treasury raise the same sum.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim director-general Ben-Amir Zuckerman said the holding company would not sell its shares in Koor and Bank Hapoalim.

A legal opinion obtained by Hevrat Ha'ovdim's management says the Histadrut cannot force it to sell any shares.

Apart from its financial assets, the Histadrut owns an estimated NIS 3 billion in real estate.

However, during the past year and a half the Histadrut has given on lien to Bank Hapoalim properties worth NIS 150m., in exchange for loans for wages and current activity.

The properties on lien include 10 of the most valuable left in the Histadrut's hands, such as the parking lot on Rehov Ben-Saruk (near Hava'ad Hapoel) and Petah Tikva's Shein Seminar.

A recent Histadrut comptroller's report lists the complex network of properties, consisting of 112 buildings and lots serving labor councils throughout the country.

The jewel in the crown is the complex of buildings comprising Hava'ad Hapoel (Histadrut headquarters) on Rehov Arlozorov.

The Histadrut's assets in Tel Aviv are estimated at NIS 1.2 billion; in Haifa at NIS 1.05b. and in Jerusalem and the rest of the labor councils at NIS 750m.

Osem announces 48% increase in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

OSEM has announced a 48 percent rise in first quarter net profits to NIS 11.8 million from NIS 7.9m. in the same quarter last year.

Total sales rose 13% to NIS 192.8m. from NIS 170.5m.

Local market sales went up 9% to NIS 174.2m. from NIS 159.3m. Export sales rose 64% to NIS 18.5m. from NIS 11.2m.

Gross profit margins rose to 38% from 36%. Per share earnings rose to NIS 0.22 from NIS 0.18.

The company attributed the growth in exports to increased sales to the US and CIS.

The company now markets in the US through a subsidiary instead of a local distributor. Higher local sales were attributed to market development for new and existing products.

● **Elite Industries** reported a 16.4% growth in first quarter net profits to NIS 14.3m. from NIS 12.3m. during the same period last year.

Profits before taxes rose 46.4% to NIS 25.7m. from NIS 17.6m.

Sales turnover fell to NIS 429m. from NIS 431m. in the previous year.

Local market sales rose 6.2% to NIS 239m. Overseas subsidiaries' contribution to sales fell to NIS 190m. from NIS 205m.

"Elite continues to develop and market new products in the coffee, sweets and salty snacks field," Elite managing director Yair Shamir said. "Elite is concentrating in increasing exports, including new markets in Eastern Europe and North America."

● **Zim Israel Navigation Company** reported a 50% rise in first quarter net profits to $8.4m. from $5.6m. in the corresponding period last year.

Zim's turnover from shipping and related services increased 2.4% to $307.7m. from $300.4m.

Zim increased its activity during the quarter in different regions such as Russia, Ukraina, India, China and other countries in the Far East.

● **Tempo** reported a first quarter net loss of NIS 5.6m., compared with a net loss of NIS 413,000 for the same period last year.

Sales increased 10.4% to NIS 67.4m. from NIS 61m. Profit margins declined slightly to 30% from 32%.

Per share losses worsened to NIS 0.35 from NIS 0.03.

The company blamed fierce competition in the local soft drinks arena for the drop in profits.

Tempo's management said it was taking measures to improve results by the end of the next quarter.

● **Shekem** reported a 45.7% cut in losses to NIS 1.9m. in the first quarter from NIS 3.5m. in the same quarter last year.

The company reported a one-time extraordinary gain during the quarter to NIS 14.9m. following a joint venture to establish a company headquarters in Ashdod.

MEY-EZOR-DAN
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

Tender No. 411/M.E.D./92

for

Supply and Erection of Screw Pumps for Soreq Biological Treatment Plant – Phase B

May-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd. invites contractors to submit bids for the supply and erection of screw pumps.
The tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. against payment of NIS 1,500 (non-returnable) at the Mey-Ezor-Dan offices, 24 Nahalat Binyamin St., Tel. Aviv, Tel. 03-5177144.
Bids should be submitted in two copies on the forms provided and in compliance with the conditions of the tender.
Bids, accompanied by a bank guarantee for US$ 30,000, or the equivalent in New Israel Shekels, as stated in the tender instructions, and valid for 120 days from the last day for submitting bids, must be placed in the tenders box not later than July 19, 1994 at 12:00 noon. Bids should not be sent by mail.
The envelope containing the bids should be marked: Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd., Tender 411/M.E.D./92.
Bids submitted after the closing time as mentioned, and bids submitted without the bank guarantee, will not be considered.
Bids may be submitted by manufacturers with qualifications and specialized experience, as specified in the tender documents.
A pre-tender meeting and site visit for bidders will be held on June 15, 1994, at 10:00 a.m., starting at the Mey-Ezor-Dan offices.
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid for the tender works or parts thereof.

Ben-Zion Moradov, Chairman
Mey-Ezor-Dan

03-91034q

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (31.5.94)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	3.875	4.250	4.750
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.500	3.750	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.125	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.125	3.125
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.625	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.5.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.2800	3.3360	—	—	3.3113
U.S. dollar	3.0199	3.0624	2.96	3.10	3.0400
German mark	1.8364	1.8822	1.80	1.88	1.8496
Pound sterling	4.5584	4.6238	4.46	4.67	4.5880
French franc	0.5374	0.5449	0.52	0.55	0.5410
Japanese yen (100)	2.8926	2.9333	2.84	2.97	2.9110
Dutch florin	1.6380	1.6610	1.61	1.68	1.6488
Swiss franc	2.1535	2.1838	2.11	2.21	2.1691
Swedish krone	0.3908	0.3964	0.38	0.40	0.3934
Norwegian krone	0.4239	0.4296	0.42	0.43	0.4267
Danish krone	0.4682	0.4758	0.46	0.48	0.4719
Finnish mark	0.5582	0.5660	0.55	0.57	0.5623
Canadian dollar	2.1804	2.2111	2.14	2.24	2.1957
Australian dollar	2.2205	2.2518	2.15	2.27	2.2324
S. African rand	0.8316	0.8433	0.48	0.66	0.8400
Belgian franc (10)	0.8923	0.9048	0.88	0.92	0.8981
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6083	2.6459	2.56	2.68	2.6284
Italian lira (1000)	1.9001	1.9268	1.85	1.96	1.9119
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.21	4.47	4.2580
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.88	0.92	0.9424
ECU	3.5342	3.5839	—	—	3.5595
Irish punt	4.4734	4.5363	4.37	4.64	4.4887
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2317	2.2831	2.17	2.31	2.2474

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates		Change
US dollar	NIS 3.0400	+ 0.30%
Sterling	NIS 4.5880	+ 0.31%
Mark	NIS 1.8486	+ 0.49%

GM outlines its case in Lopez dispute

FRANKFURT (Reuter) – US car giant General Motors yesterday took the initiative in its battle with rival Volkswagen AG over alleged industrial spying by defending its position in an exhaustive account of the long-running dispute.

German unit Adam Opel AG circulated 40 pages of documentation relating to its charge that Volkswagen's purchasing and production chief Jose Ignacio Lopez and several colleagues stole secrets when they left GM to join VW last year.

"It's designed to shed more light on this. We want people to know our side of the story," GM Europe spokesman Kenneth Levy said.

But the statement contained no new allegations against Lopez. Opel at the weekend had said its lawyers had called for the arrest of Lopez and said it would present documentation which "speaks for itself".

Levy said the call was based on Opel's concern that Lopez could be transferred to Spain or to some other location outside the jurisdiction of German authorities.

Volkswagen said it would comment on the statement when it had read it. The Darmstadt public prosecution office, which is investigating the case, declined to comment.

In its documentation, Opel again defended its use of private detectives to monitor the activities of Lopez and some of his associates.

VW's supervisory board is meeting today and will also discuss Opel's deployment of detectives.

Media interest in the case flared up again recently after it emerged that Opel had used private detectives to investigate Lopez.

"The detectives used behaved in line with the law in every respect," the statement said.

On the current stand of the investigation, Opel said in the statement that computer specialists had found a way to retrieve information deleted from computer discs confiscated from Volkswagen last year.

The investigators could now determine whether Volkswagen fed Opel secrets into its computers, the statement said. "VW has been informed about the initial results of these new investigation through its lawyers," the statement said.

But it fell short of saying the discs did in fact contain Opel secrets.

A magazine report published at the weekend said prosecutors had managed to retrieve secret Opel data which had been deleted from the computer discs.

Waigel upbeat on recovery

MULHOUSE, France (Reuter) – German Finance Minister Theo Waigel gave an optimistic assessment yesterday of "gratifying signs" of recovery in the French and German economies.

Speaking to reporters at a Franco-German economic council meeting, Waigel said he and French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery had discussed the latest positive export, demand, investment and inflation data in both countries and ways to build on success.

He said there had been a surprising increase in domestic and export demand in the first quarter and a real increase in industrial investment for the first time since mid-1991.

Waigel said the Bonn government's growth forecast for 1994 of one percent in western Germany and 1.5% in the whole country was "on the safe side."

In the longer term, from 1998, German growth was set to return to the healthy levels of around a real 3% a year which West Germany had enjoyed in the second half of the 1980s, he said.

On inflation, Waigel said France was doing better than Germany, but it was "gratifying" to see German consumer price inflation under 3% for the first time in several years.

France to allow UK airlines at Orly

PARIS (Reuter) – France said yesterday it would allow British airlines to use Orly Airport from June 13, four weeks after British Airways (BA) had intended to enforce a European Commission decision and land there without permission.

But Transport Minister Bernard Bosson told reporters he was imposing conditions on the use of Orly, that he planned to dispute European Commission decisions in the European court and would strongly support a bid by French airlines to get Heathrow slots.

He said he would limit Orly access to four take-off and landing slots per company per day, and from the summer of 1995 would only allow planes with more than 200 seats on the airport during morning and evening peak hours.

"The Commission wants total freedom now, we agreed to total freedom from 1997," Bosson said, adding he would allow the gradual opening up of French skies in the period to 1997.

Britain welcomed France's decision to open Orly to British air traffic from June 13, but vowed to fight on against restrictions still in place.

John MacGregor, Britain's secretary of state for Transport, said: "I am pleased that following British pressure... the French government has agreed to bring forward the date from which these services start."

BA Chairman Sir Colin Marshall said flights by BA and its subsidiary TAT would begin promptly on June 13.

"We remain however extremely concerned at the restrictions that will be imposed and we will be challenging these with the appropriate authorities," he said.

A spokesman said BA was particularly concerned about France limiting services to only four flights per airline and restricting the capacity of those aircraft allowed in.

Macgregor said Paris' decision was a good start since it opened up more competition and more choice, but he echoed Marshall's promise to challenge French restrictions.

Orly, south of Paris, is currently mainly used as the hub airport for domestic airline Air Inter. International flights use Roissy/Charles de Gaulle airport north-east of the capital.

BA, which already flies to Roissy, wants to land at Orly and later start services between Orly and French cities Marseille, Toulouse and Nice using the colors of its French unit TAT.

BA and Air UK had planned to start services, without French permission, on May 16 but there was a last-minute diplomatic agreement on a six-week delay.

The French decision to open Orly two weeks sooner than agreed was communicated to MacGregor on Saturday morning following a European transport ministers' meeting in the French Alpine town of Annecy.

Both British Airways/TAT and Air France will start four daily services between Orly and Heathrow on June 13.

Air UK will start services between North London's Stansted airport and Orly. British Midland, were it to lodge an official request, would also get four slots at Orly.

Japan vehicle exports continue skid

TOKYO (Reuter) – Japan's year-on-year vehicle exports fell for their 13th straight month in April, but exports to the US rebounded, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) said yesterday.

Overall vehicle exports for the year to April sank 16.2 percent to 367,230 compared with the year before, hit by weak demand in Europe and the strong yen, which has made Japanese carmakers shift production overseas.

Exports by four of Japan's five biggest makers fell. But Honda Motor staged a recovery, posting a steep 38.7 percent year-on-year gain to 45,132 in April.

A Honda spokesman attributed the company's sharp rise to poor exports last April ahead of a full remodeling of its Accord cars in September.

Sales of Accords in the US rose 27.7% from a year ago to 32,751 in April, the Honda spokesman said.

Japan's vehicle exports to the US posted an 11.4% year-on-year gain to 135,147 in April, their first rise in nine months.

But exports to the European Union fell 23.2% to 63,044, their fourth straight decline, the association said.

An association official said 1994-95 exports were sure to fall because of higher overseas output by Japanese makers.

Japan's vehicle exports in 1993-94 fell 18.3% to 4.62 million, the second straight year of decline.

Bank lays claim to cash held by Tapie's firm

PARIS (Reuter) – Bernard Tapie's creditor bank said yesterday it had laid claim to cash in the account of the flamboyant businessman-politician's holding company, seeking a court order to freeze FR 100 million ($18m.).

The move is the latest twist in a face-off between state-owned Credit Lyonnais and its old client, who denies the bank's claim that he defaulted on an debt pay-back agreement.

The bank has given Tapie until Thursday to repay FR 450m. ($80m.) of the FR 1.22b. ($217m.) he owes. If he does not pay on time his collection of antique furniture and art works, and possibly his Paris mansion, may be seized and auctioned off.

"This is effectively a freeze on Bernard Tapie Finance's bank account," a source at Credit Lyonnais said. "It is similar to what has already been done for the furniture."

The bank, declaring null and void an accord under which Tapie had five years to repay his debts, earlier this month sent a bailiff to stake a claim on FR 350m. ($62m.) of furniture and works of art at his 16th-century stately home in Paris.

Tapie, campaigning for his center-left Radical Energy list's stand in European parliament elections next month, has tried to deflect intense media interest in his personal affairs.

He currently faces six separate judicial investigations for interfering with witnesses, business fraud and tax evasion.

An investigation into suspected fraud and forgery in connection with the finances of his Marseille soccer club heard evidence from Tapie yesterday.

That hearing is separate from an investigation into bribery and interfering with witnesses in connection with an alleged attempt by Marseille to pay opponents Valenciennes to lose a key league match last year.

Tapie declined to comment at the weekend on reports that he would take Credit Lyonnais to court to challenge its claim that he defaulted on the debt pay-back deal and to claim damages.

Sources at the bank could not confirm whether Tapie had filed such a suit.

Swiss companies mount acquisition strategy abroad

ZURICH (Reuter) – Cash-rich Swiss corporate giants, holding lots of uncommitted cash and looking for places to spend it, have begun broadening their global presence with large, expensive acquisitions and more of the same can be expected.

Analysts said the Swiss multinationals, which which have rebounded from recession earlier than their counterparts elsewhere, currently see acquisition as perhaps their most viable option.

"This is nothing new. Companies here are used to thinking internationally and they have the balance sheet strength," said Hans-Peter Ast, head of broker research it UBS in Zurich.

"One could build up cash, but this is not wise with lower [short-term] interest rates, so one must look for another investment," said Hans Kaufmann, director of Swiss research at Bank Julius Baer in Zurich.

There is also a new generation of Swiss corporate management in place more oriented to improving shareholder values and who feel pressure to show good results, Kaufmann said.

Sandoz is the third major Swiss company to announce a key acquisition in the US market since the start of the month.

Swiss pharmaceuticals giant Sandoz AG said last week it was buying Gerber Products Co., the premier baby food company in the US, for $3.7 billion in cash.

Analysts said the prices was high enough to make a competitive bid unlikely.

Roche Holding Ltd at the start of the month announced plans to acquire Syntex Corp of the US for $5.3b. in cash to create the world's fourth largest drug firm.

Roche's bid to pay $24 for Syntex stock represents around 18.5 times Syntex's 1993 net profit of $287 million.

"The Swiss are more long-term oriented so they are willing to pay a reasonable price," Baer's Kaufmann said.

The strength of the Swiss franc recently in foreign exchange markets has also influenced the timing and purchase prices of these recent acquisitions, the analysts said.

The Roche move, along with Merck AG's purchase this month of a majority stake in Dutch generic drug manufacturer Amerpharm, could mean that pressure is increasing on Ciba Geigy AG to find a buyout candidate, one analyst said.

US President Bill Clinton's plan to revamp the nation's health care system has led pharmaceutical firms to try and broaden their product range sufficiently to match the needs of the larger purchasers likely to evolve from healthcare reform, said Beat Philipp, head of research at Vontobel Asset Management.

In the food sector, Nestle SA, which had been rumored to be interested in buying Gerber, is buying two million shares of Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Inc. for about $106m. and warrants for another $2m.

The size of the deal leaves analysts thinking that a much larger acquisition is in Nestle's future, especially since the company will net as much as SFr 1.5b. from its sale of some holdings to French cosmetics group L'Oreal.

"Nestle is producing such a tremendous amount of free cash flow that they are going to make a major purchase every three years," Philipp said.

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound:	spot	1.5085	-0.0007
	Jan.future (CME)	1.5086	+0.0012
D-mark:	spot	1.647	+0.0033
	Jun.future (CME)	0.608	+0.0015
S-franc:	spot	1.466	-0.0012
	Jun.future (CME)	0.71125	+0.0014
Yen:	spot	104.7	+0.33
	Jun.future (CME)	0.009598	+3.4e-005
Can$:	spot	1.3852	-0.0015
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7208	-0.0008
Aus$:	spot	0.7347	+0.001
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7389	-0.0005
F-franc:	spot	5.6295	-0.0035
It.Lire:	spot	1591	+2.5
Nlg:	spot	1.8471	-0.0013
Aust.Sch:	spot	11.56	+0.005
Peseta:	spot	3.6425	-0.009
SDR:	spot	1.169	-0.0021
Belgi	future	104.031	-0.3125
S and P	future	456.5	-0.8

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	1 months	4.625	0
Dollar	6 months	5	0
Dollar	12 months	5.5	0
Sterling	1 months	5.1875	0
Sterling	6 months	5.4375	0
Sterling	12 months	5.8375	0
S-franc	1 months	4.3125	0
S-franc	6 months	4.25	-0.0625
S-franc	12 months	4.25	0
D-mark	1 months	5.1875	0
D-mark	6 months	5.125	-0.0625
D-mark	12 months	5.1875	-0.0625
Yen	1 months	2.1875	0
Yen	6 months	2.25	0
Yen	12 months	2.375	0

(Bank indicat Settings are from approximately 2030 Israel Time. All others are closing quotes.)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 30-MAY-94)

PARIS

Accor	688	+4
Air Liquide	782	+8
Alcatel Alsthom	612	+8
BSN	657	-3
BNP Cert Inv	220	+0
Carrel	916	+3
Carrefour	1888	+0
Chargeurs	1433	-7
Club Med	429	+11
Cred Lyon (C)	577	-3
Eli Aquitaine	410	-1
Espe Rimmy	31.2	-0.15
Europenne		
Hachette	119	+1
LVMH	676	+11
Lafarge Coppee	422.4	+5.4
Legrn Bauf	575	+8
Michelin B	222.7	+0.5
Moulinex	140	-1.9
Perrier	397.3	-1.7
Pernod Ricard	382.9	+1.5
Peugeot	822	-8
Rhone Poulenc Cls	161.5	-0.5
Saint Gobain	578	-3
Suez (Fin de)	390.4	+0.4
Total B	214	+2

FRANKFURT

Allianz AG	1890	+10
BASF	313	-2
Bayer	365	-2.1
Commerzbank	7.1	+0
Daimler-Benz	769.5	-15.5
Deutsche Bank	737.5	-7
Dresdner Bk	374.5	-2.5
Hoechst	338.5	-5.5
Lufthansa	184.5	-1
Mannesmann	424.5	-14
Mercedes Hld	-	-
Metallgesellschaft	227	-1.5
Porsche	792	-6
Siemens	661.9	-5.1
Volkswagen	483	-7

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd.

The New York Stock Exchange was closed yesterday due to Memorial Day in the US. Markets in London were also closed due to a bank holiday in England.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Name	Price	%chg
Commercial Banks		
FirstInt1	726	
FirstInt2	6083	
General	16503	-1.3
IndDevDD		*
IndDevPD		*
LeumiW1		
MarkC	226	-1.7
OHH	162240	
Trade	7260	
TradeC	165.00	0.8
Mortgage Banks & Finance		
Adanim	369780	-0.2
Carmel	808	
CarmG2	320	
DevelMB	21472	-0.3
FirstMB	38794	
IndepMB	76080	-1.2
J IemC	131.00	-3.0
J IemW	222	
JlemBnk	399	-2.7
LeumiMBR	103849	-2.0
Mishkn	34399	-4.9
MishkanC	165.00	-
Mishkr	10269	-5.0
TefahcdB	184158	
TefahcdR	187855	
Financial Institutions		
Shiton	9861	-5.0
Insurance		
Ananei	2124	
Ayalon	983	
AyalonC	541	1.3
Elron	380	-0.6
ElronC1	206	
Hadar1	1432	9.2
Hadar5	1418	10.0
HamahsnrC	232	
Hamshsnr1	1783	
Hamshsnr5	1788	0.5
Menorah1	1357	
Menorah5	1333	
Phoenix1	3832	5.0
Phoenix5	3838	5.8
Safrar	649	
Zion5	10859	
Trade & Services		
Assuta	1303	-2.0
AssutaC1	268	
Bezeq	3025	
BezeqW2	242	-0.4
BndWrhC1	130.50	0.4
BndWrhC2	124.50	
BondWrh1 L	4678	-1.0
Clicp51	114150	-3.0
ClalCmpC	330	
ClalTWR	581	-12.2
CorBeach	2376	-5.0
CoOp	1136	
Crystal	4245	
Dan4Int1	2048	-2.0
DCL	300	-4.1
DCLW	449	0.2
Elad	227	-3.8
Fellahmn	288	-4.1
GanHedar	271	-2.2
GanHedC	194.00	
GlobalG2	202	
GramatC1	121.50	
GramtWr2	136.00	
HGICI1	128.00	
HGIWT	250	
HGIt1	774	-0.5
Intgrms1	3911	-10.0
Intgrms5	3812	
Isrcal	2535	
Mtsr	1494	4.0
Matil	1280	
Mectech	894	-3.8
MectechW	1356	-11.9
MLLCT	180.00	-5.0
Repac	2549	
Rashel	185.50	-1.0
RashelC1	177.00	0.8
Team	4871	0.5
TeamC1	218	-5.0
TeamC2		
Telsys	1457	4.9
Teplins	475	-3.3
YaadC1	134.50	
Yasna	1350	
Yedet	1002	0.5
Yona	674	-2.2
Industrials		
AdorsC	134.00	
AdrinC	359	
AdsomC2	44.80	10.1
Alfanca	1405	-2.0
Alony	453	
AlonyW1	38.00	
Alumit11L	13838	
Angel	13063	-3.0
Argaman	875	
ArylC1	104.00	-3.7
Ashply	2369	3.3
Ashphc1	171.00	0.2
AshphW2	1696	15.2
AshrmW1		
Ashtrom	394	
Atarrom	791	-10.0
AtarromW1	404	
Azimuth	718	
Belmon	581	
BoulosC1	198.00	1.5
Cables C2	332	
CablesC3	127.00	-0.4
CablesW3	565	-0.2
Caroline	1245	-3.0
Cargal	1414	
Castro	1377	-1.5
Cham	946	
ChamW1	81.50	
ClalSec	324	-2.1
ClalSec1	2870	0.7
Clinl C9	178.50	-2.5
CyclonsW	10354	
Cyclone1	23982	-0.2
Cyclone5	12899	
CyclonC1	167.00	-1.1
CyclonC2	180.50	-0.3
Delmond	175.00	
DelmonW2	2235	0.5
Delrad1	4114	
Decision	844	-1.7
Degem1	1283	0.2
Delta 1	1851	-5.0
Delta5	1851	-4.6
DubekB	16401	6.3
DubekR	15868	-0.5
EagleC	180.00	
EagleC2	45.00	
EagleW3	35.80	
Eagle1	92.00	
Edgar	472	-2.1
EdgarC2	123.00	
ElchaTec	129.50	-10.1
ElbitW1	17651	-3.0
Elcobrd	5065	
Elcmca	1323	-5.0
ElcomW1	203	1.8
Elcor 0.5	2499	-5.0
ElectrG4	316	
ElbitC	382	-1.9
EshelRbc	702	-5.0
Evrce	894	
Fertilizr5	2773	-1.9
Fertil1	3154	-1.6
FoochaW1	5497	10.0
FoochaW5	4203	3.0
Fox J	627	12.2
FrutarC1	194.00	-0.8
FrutarC2	171.00	0.6
GiborC1	108.50	-1.8
GiborSnb	470	-2.1
GiborW2	800	-20.0
Golan	1397	1.2
Hamas1	3273	
Hasahof1	620	0.3
Hasahof5	3827	-2.0
Hod	358	-5.0
Hofit	282	
IsrCom1	2498	-5.0
Jet-ora	778	
Kedem	9440	
KedemC2	188.00	1.3
Keter	525	1.9
KitanC1	141.50	
KitanW1		
Klil	2841	
Lipsti	3135	-1.5
Lodzia1	1688	1.2
Lodzia4	1648	
LuzkyGd	303	
MedPell	986	-0.2
MacPalW1	1.00	
Magam	489	-1.9
Maidmet	1961	-4.2
Maidmet5	1850	-5.0
Mat Eden	1056	-2.0
Modgal	971	
Mousics1	864	
Mousics5	823	
NegCham	475	1.8
Nehusta1	1258	
Nehusht5	938	-4.0
Nevtex	1234	
NevtexW1		
Nice1	1834	-0.5
NMC	884	-0.7
Ofis	1024	1.8
Oshiv	282	
Oshiv1	983	-5.0
Orbis	539	
PackerW2	14719	
Pargod	3073	-8.0
PasCham	801	
Pitsa	923	-2.0
PolgatA	826	-0.6
PolgatC1	179.50	-4.0
PolgatW3	228	
Polygon	1220	
PolygonC	168.50	-0.3
PZ3	906	-2.0
Rebirtex	1589	0.3
RshlmptW	787	-3.0
Spafilo1	783	
Sano1	1364	1.0
Sano5	1172	-2.3
Sefan	787	-2.2
Shemen	20308	-2.5
Spcmm	831	-6.0
Steel	171.00	-2.3
Suntrost	16170	-0.7
Tasi	67984	-3.0
TaSasn	927	-3.5
TadrC	204	-1.9
Tedea	585	10.0
Tiv	825	2.5
Tobias1	488	-4.9
Tosaar	2838	-1.9
TATC1	304	
TAT3	848	
Unitar1	945	-0.2
Unitar5	387	-0.3
Vitalgo1	788	1.9
Vulcan	283	2.2
VulcanC	153.00	-6.4
WardBron	19884	1.0
WardBrW3	12581	-1.7
YlangC2	380	
Zahavi	479	
Zila1	1707	
Zilab	1658	-3.2
Zilot1	4021	
Zilot5	4533	0.2
ZionCab1	1675	-5.0
Zonarind	880	-3.0
Property, Building & Agriculture		
Alrov	2488	
AlrovC		
AlrovWt1L	1259	
Arasim	941	-0.2
Arasim C1	175.50	
Arladen1	1230	-3.0
Assis	2525	
AssisC1	169	
AssisW2	1738	
AsorpC1	259	
AsorpW3	11.00	
AsorProp	801	-6.5
Beranol	1209	-2.0
BeynlehS	33317	6.3
BeynlehC1	32533	2.0
BenYakar	4824	-5.0
BenYakW1	1435	5.3
BenYbenC	59.00	
BldgRes	6767	8.2
Dorotex	2772	
DscsNwr	1891	-9.7
DankrerC	177.00	
Darad1	407	
Dumbar	7107	2.2
DumbarCw	762	
Engel	949	
GoldHous	305	
GlobHousC	178.00	0.6
Hilan	5765	
HilanW4	424	
Ispro	2516	-3.0
Isrsalom	2160	
IsrsalomC	225	0.4
IsrsalomW	2407	-1.5
IsrasC1	204	0.5
Israel5	7442	-5.0
Isras1	8170	-7.3
ICPS	31580	3.5
Jerusalm1	419	
Jordan	580	-8.5
LautCt1	126.50	-3.8
LazedW1	80.50	
Lazdc5	880	
Litchk5	287	1.9
Lumr1	7425	
MalibuC		
MalibuC2	110.50	-0.5
MalibuI	1178	
MerLasC	219	
MerLasC2	97.00	-9.8
MerLasW3	200	-31.2
Minusv	11886	
Mishmad	288	-10.0
MTM	4012	2.0
NecsAviv	1856	
PriOr	6833	
Rogbrs	780	
RogovIn1L	1424	
RogovIn5	1352	-0.5
Rotem	787	-8.9
SeharHld		
Siscom	401	
Shelbid	1037	
Tashlur	1069	
Investment Companies		
Ackers1	1521	
Ackers2	1414	
AtidsC	658	-1.1
Ampa	215315	-1.0
Arad	9701	
Asr aC2	266	3.1
ClalW3	3350	
Clal30	7668	
DanSecC	238	
Danbar1	3788	
Elsm	3923	4.5
Emels	440	
ExpandC4	282	
ElrsC1	817	3.5
Hlron5	10710	
IDUC5	183.00	-5.2
KardanG2	783	
Kbut	1216	-6.0
Magor1	3397	1.0
Magor5	2857	-8.0
Mivtex	269	
OshIC1	132.00	
OshW1	5588	-0.5
Ofer	24212	
PlrmtL1	1440	-3.2
Plrm1	836	-4.2
Plrm4	808	-9.9
SahavDev	3027	
Secutex	4241	
SecurtsC	137.50	-0.7
SeturtsW	1630	1.7
TevaC	397	0.3
TaurC1	176.00	0.9
TaurShrcr	102.00	-2.4
TaurW3	55.00	
Unico	5785	
Oil Exploration		
JoelC1	184.50	
JoelC1A	184.50	
MGN1	12184	0.2
PARALLEL LIST		
Trade & Services		
Arlan	2301	-4.8
AslanW1	1711	
Comtec	784	2.6
Delin1	28.00	
Danel	1548	
Denly	6136	4.6
Delta	2713	6.0
Elbech	775	-3.0
Grcenbay	1286	
ILDCH01	815	
Klnd	242	-0.4
Kopel	651	
KopelC1	163.00	
MCPK	709	-6.3
Nirun1	477	-9.4
TrendLin	2139	1.8
Property, Building		
Adler	301	9.1
Cesarea1	11540	4.2
Gazit	913	2.2
GazitW1	829	5.7
GlobC1	346	
Llanrich	230	-1.9
Lwhstn1	689	-5.0
Matheron	1221	-1.9
Ot	308	
Rassco	3897	
Scandia	9500	0.3
ScandiaC	134.00	-0.4
UnicomG1	133.00	
Unicom1	198.50	-6.5
UnicomS	216	-10.0
UnicorW3	170.00	-1.4
Industrials		
Adumim1	439	-0.2
Bar—Tzel	2545	0.2
Baruch1	2006	
Baruch5	789	
Brosh1	723	0.3
Dexior	2307	-3.3
Elcom	283	-10.1
Gali	179.50	
Hamlin	2706	5.9
Kadomany1	537	-2.2
Klng1	831	2.8
Lahish1	3909	3.0
MamC1	148.00	-2.0
Mam1	582	
MLT	1329	
Naca	27031	
NacaG1	183.00	
Ohalbib	949	
Orzch	500	
OrzchC	120.50	
OrzhPrtz	1217	
Polisi1	1498	
Shtalcr	319	10.0
Tastis	1498	1.9
TibnvlG1		
Investment Companies		
Binyan	173004	
Mirage	143.00	
MivtsKG1		
Optima	498	5.9
Regen1	358	-8.9
Yisium	151.50	-9.7
Oil Exploration		
DlkDEx1	8006	
Naphtha	2730	-1.8

Two-sided trading

Name	Price	AFTERNOON % Change	Volume Shares	Price	MORNING % Change	Volume Shares
Abjac	106.5	-5.0	3140000	113.0	0.9	660888
Ackerlin	718	-0.5	17500	720	-0.3	34171
Adacom	204	10.0	277200	204	10.0	
Afris 0.	449775	-1.0	212	454319		220
Afrisr	425430	-1.0	85	430801	0.2	152
Agan	4268	-1.2	7000	4322		9931
Agis	2416	-5.0	84000	2340	-8.0	36521
Aryt J.	708	-2.7	6000	706	-3.0	11997
Avner	17.8	-9.2	1900000	19.4	-1.0	1573306
Azorim	4504	-1.5	6750	4573		11969
ALPM	13187	-6.5	6300	13505	-4.2	4525
Bezek	622	-2.0	577500	625	-1.6	282931
Boulo	290	2.0	84000	294	3.5	75820
Cables	1805	1.0	9000	1910	1.3	30756
Clal Com	24870	-2.7	600	25573		525
Clal Ele	33732	-3.0	2040	34775		7106
Clal Tra	1232	0.7	142800	1226	0.2	50634
Clal 10	8612	-4.5	27400	9018		
Clalins	1826	-2.0	14400	1849	-0.8	4900
Clalstr 5	2745	-0.2	5800	2752		10233
Clnda	1777	-1.7	153600	1809		43456
CohenDev	836	1.2	16500	836	1.2	23227
Danbar 5	2978			2978		6882
Dead Sea	1397	-2.7	55800	1425	-0.8	171742
Delek	7609		9000	7609		11829
Discinv	23504	-2.0	5580	23504	-2.0	4843
Elbit	27752	-3.2	3360	28397	-1.0	6948
Elco	8599	-1.0	750	8621	-0.7	498
Elite 5	1434	-2.0	109500	1463		110707
Elron	13181	-3.0	4200	13297	-2.0	7404
Evergr n.	3308		6800	3308		18003
Export	1803	1.7	19000	1812	2.3	8257
Fibi	57093	-2.0	2800	58258		
Formula	2317	-2.2	12600	2370		9245
Frstint1	39348	-2.0	1320	39950	-0.5	1017
Frstint5	36546	-1.5	4980	34463	-4.5	353
Frutarom	886	-3.7	40000	890	-3.3	33410
Gahelet	10052	-0.2	1800	10077		1912
Granit	557	-1.5	44000	557	-1.4	10112
Hapoalm	370	-0.7	1790000	371	-0.5	1705286
Hapolm	12309	1.0	10200	12431	2.0	10514
IndBldg	462	-1.7	340000	461	-1.9	120879
IndDevBK	40056	-3.2	300	40574	-2.0	377
Isramco	21.4	-9.5	15680000	22.1	-6.8	2803070
IsrCorp1	34106	-1.7	960	34713		1637
IsrCorp5	28569	-1.5		28569	-1.5	1112
IsChem	241	-4.0	1269000	246	-2.0	965486
IDB	1189	-2.0	125800	1195	-1.5	72887
IDBDev	65389	-2.2	1290	65556	-2.0	1104
ILDC	1675	-3.2	36000	1679	-3.0	58638
JEC	1680	-2.7	53900	1693	-2.0	71645
JOEL	319	-7.5	280000	345		
Kardan5	690	-4.0	60000	699	-2.8	20948
Kitan	1178	-1.5	18000	1181	-1.3	61695
Klill	2863		800	2863		4220
Koor	22218	-5.5	25900	22569	-4.0	13858
Leumi	336	-1.7	1200000	342		678278
LeumiW2	20.4	-2.0	1125000	20.8		1105075
Lifshiz1	362		95000	362		15162
Makhteh	1626	-2.7	153000	1647	-1.5	48701
Malibu5	1108	-0.5	32400	1122	0.7	39650
Maman	792	-1.2	3000	798	-0.7	11170
Marit1	3313	-4.0	11900	3451		10777
Mashov	795	-1.2	13800	805		40278
Mehadrin	17376	0.7	480	17290	0.2	957
MeirEzra	6271	-0.7	24750	6350	0.5	16029
Mivtah	1987	-2.2	34400	2033		18938
Multilock	1948	-1.7	14000	1983		14149
MGN5	8493	-7.2	3780	8402	-8.2	3870
MLL1	574	-9.2	17500	576	-

Scharf: Israel capable of beating Argentina

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL soccer coach Shlomo Scharf believes that his current squad is capable of producing another giant-killing act against Argentina to match last October's sensational victory against the French.

As in that game, Scharf has picked an all-out attacking line-up with which to wrest the initiative from the visitors.

It was a case of sweat and toil for Israel's national soccer squad yesterday as the players battled through an intensive training session in readiness for tonight's 7 pm showdown at the National Stadium Ramat Gan.

While the Argentinians spent yesterday morning taking in the sights of Jerusalem, Scharf took his men through the game plan that he hopes will register Israel's first ever victory against a nation which has won soccer's supreme prize twice – in 1978 and 1986 – and ended beaten finalists in the last World Cup.

The only doubtful starter is Betar Jerusalem forward Eli Ohana, who was injured in training after a clash with Rafi Cohen. If Ohana does not make the opening line-up, clubmate Ronen Harazi is likely to take his place at the head of the line. Ronnie Rosenthal is set to play as the twin raider upfront and the Tottenham striker will be expected to provide piercing runs down the left flank.

Eyal Berkowitz leads the midfield with Tal Banin of Cannes, and fellow Maccabi Haifa players Ronnie Levy and Reuven Atar. Except for captain Nir Klinger, the back four comprises players from the new National League champions, and much responsibility will be placed on the shoulders of Alon Hazan to bring play out of defense and service the midfield row. Bonni Ginzburg is slated to open in goal for his 50th national cap.

The Argentinians have not yet announced their starting 11.

Yesterday morning Diego Maradona and his colleagues were hosted at the Prime Minister's Office by Yitzhak Rabin. Maradona was in ebullient mood and seemed to enjoy the mass press attention. He looked fit and confident, finding time to record the words "Boker Tov Yisrael" for Army Radio's popular morning show as well as pose for photos outside the building with a smiling soldier woman on each arm.

During his meeting with the prime minister, Maradona expressed his affection for the country and though Rabin hesitated to wish the visitors luck for today's match, the feeling of goodwill was there for all to see.

"He is one of the most important personalities in the world," Maradona said of Rabin. "For him to give us a little of his time, for me, it is great."

The Argentinian then went onto the Western Wall to repeat a pilgrimage that has stood them in fine stead in the past two World Cups. Maradona sought to invoke some divine assistance that may well be needed more than once in the coming weeks, while crowds forced police to form a wedge to protect him.

Rockets survive late rally to beat Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (Reuter) – Kenny Smith scored 25 points and the Houston Rockets survived a late rally to beat the Utah Jazz 80-78 on Sunday and take a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals.

Hakeem Olajuwon added a quiet – by his standards – 16 points and nine rebounds for the Rockets, who can clinch their second trip to the NBA Finals with a victory at home in Game Five today.

"We feel we have one game to win in three," said Smith. "It's a race to four. Right now we feel real comfortable, confident, and we'll be very, very aggressive on Tuesday."

The teams combined for a playoff record low 23 points in the second quarter, with Smith accounting for 10 of Houston's 13 points.

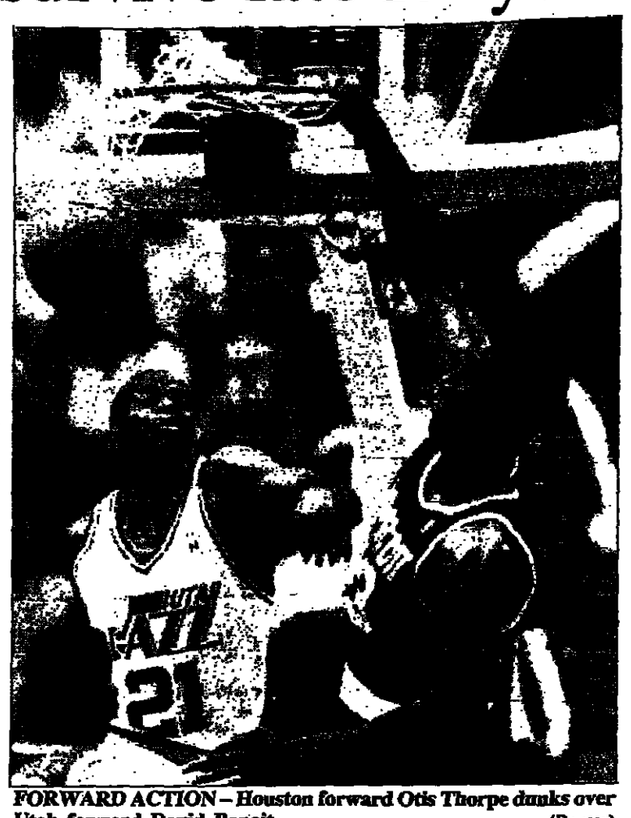
Smith said that he had tried to be more aggressive with Utah putting extra defensive pressure on Olajuwon, the league's Most Valuable Player.

"They're sending two or three guys at him," said Smith. "So it's imperative that you take your time and be aggressive once you get the basketball. They're really daring you sometimes to shoot the basketball."

"That was tough, very tough," said Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich. "They doubled and tripled on Olajuwon and he had to kick it out."

The Rockets led by as many as seven points in the final minute of the fourth quarter, but John Stockton hit a 3-pointer with 13.5 seconds remaining to cut the margin to 80-78.

Before the ball was inbounded, Stockton drew an offensive foul on Houston rookie Sam Cassell, giving the Jazz a chance to tie the game.



FORWARD ACTION – Houston forward Otis Thorpe dunks over Utah forward David Benoit. (Reuter)

Thanks to a malfunctioning scoreboard clock, Utah had considerably more than 13 seconds to get off a shot, but could only manage an off-balance jumper in the lane by Tom Chambers. The Rockets grabbed the rebound and ran out the clock.

Smith's 10-point second quarter helped the Rockets build a 38-31 halftime lead.

Utah rallied to within 50-49 on Karl Malone's 18-foot baseline jumper with 3:38 left in the third quarter. But Vernon Maxwell answered with a 3-pointer and Houston closed the quarter with a 10-1 run to establish a 60-50 lead.

Malone led Utah with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Jeff Hornacek added 18 points and Stockton finished with 17 points and six assists.

The Jazz shot 37 percent from the field and missed 10 of 29 free-throw attempts. Houston, looking to go the Finals for the first time since losing to Boston in 1986, hit 40 percent of its field-goal attempts and was 17-for-21 from the line.

The previous record low for a playoff quarter was 25 points, set by the Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Lakers in the second quarter of a game on April 22, 1977.

NBA Playoff Glance
Finals (Best of 7)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
New York leads Indiana 2-1
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Sunday's result:
Houston 80, Utah 78
Houston leads series 3-1
Last night's scheduled game:
New York at Indiana
Today:
Utah at Houston

Leicester promoted to Premier League

LONDON (Reuter) – Steve Walsh's first goals since September made it third time lucky for Leicester as they reached England's Premier League by beating Derby 2-1 yesterday.

Walsh, ruled out for nearly eight months this season by a cruciate ligament injury, struck the winner with his second goal of the match with just three minutes left of the division one playoff final at Wembley.

The goals of the defender-turned-striker meant Leicester and its manager Brian Little, beaten in the last two playoff finals by Blackburn and Swindon, made it back to the top flight after a gap of seven years.

But Little's team did it the hard way, coming from a goal down to defeat a Derby side who for long stretches of a tightly contested final looked the better team.

Derby went ahead in the 27th minute. A superb through-ball from Paul Simpson released Tommy Johnson through the middle and, the striker held off Simon Grayson and Brian Carey to shoot coolly past goalkeeper Gavin Ward.

Four minutes before the interval Leicester equalized. Gary Coatsworth crossed from the right, Derby 'keeper Martin Taylor appeared to be impeded by Iwan Roberts and Walsh bundled the ball towards goal. Derby defender Paul Williams unaccountably missed the ball on the line and Leicester was level.

Derby continued to play the better soccer after the break as Johnson, American John Harkes and Marco Gabbiadini all went close. Paul Simpson shot straight at Ward and then Harkes amazingly shot wide with the Leicester goal gaping.

Three minutes from time Derby was made to pay for its wasted chances when Walsh punished the team again. Ian Ordmondroyd had a header well stopped by Taylor, but the Derby 'keeper could not hold on to the ball and Walsh pounced to score gleefully from six meters.

Colombia beats Milan

MIAMI (AP) – In an atmosphere worthy of a World Cup game, Colombia's national soccer team showed again Sunday night that its growing reputation as a World Cup favorite is well deserved.

Before a pro-Colombian crowd of 57,724 in the Orange Bowl, the Colombians dismantled club giant AC Milan 2-1 on goals by Faustino Asprilla and Fredy Rincon.

The score could have been much worse if Colombia had not missed several solid scoring opportunities. Asprilla, Rincon, midfielder Carlos Valderrama and forward Adolfo Valencia were fast and clever, much to the approval of the raucous crowd that chanted "Colombia!" throughout the match.

It was a euphoric evening, one that will only add to Colombia's expectations as a Cup challenger. Coach Francisco Maturana said his team is starting to click, just three weeks before its World Cup opener against Romania on June 18.

"I'm satisfied with the team," Maturana said. "With the amount of games we have left to prepare, I think we'll be all right."

Ivanisevic, little-known Dreekmann advance to French Open quarter-finals

PARIS (AP) – Fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, with 15 aces to offset 80 unforced errors, advanced yesterday to the French Open quarter-finals. So did German teenager Hendrik Dreekmann, the least experienced player left in the field.

Dreekmann, 19, upset American Aaron Krickstein in straight sets and next will face Sweden's Magnus Larsson, who crushed Jaime Yzaga of Peru, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Ivanisevic, the only seed left in his half of the draw, played erratically against Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi, but won most of the big points, particularly with his serve.

In the quarterfinals, he will face 23rd-ranked Alberto Berasategui of Spain, who advanced when Argentina's Javier Frana pulled out with a pulled stomach muscle while trailing, 6-2, 6-0.

Krickstein made critical double faults early against Dreekmann, while the German played with cool consistency in a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

"I didn't feel that comfortable out there today. I'm not really sure why," Krickstein said. "I didn't play nearly as well as I would have liked."

Dreekmann, ranked only 89th in the world, has never won a tournament and lost in straight sets in the first round of the Australian Open this year, his only previous Grand Slam.

Of the 10 German men entered here – including No. 2 seed Michael Stich – Dreekmann was the only one to get past the second round. He beat 121st-ranked qualifier Dimitri Poliakov of Ukraine, upset 15th-seeded clay-court expert Carlos Costa of Spain, then beat 35th-ranked American veteran Richey Reneberg.

Krickstein, ranked 33rd, ousted a listless Stich in the second round, but admitted afterward he would need to play better to keep advancing. He went on to win his third-round match, but his opponent was a qualifier from the Czech Republic, 272th-ranked Radomir Vasek.

Krickstein jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first set, but double-faulted to allow Dreekmann to draw even, then double-faulted twice to go down 4-5 before the German served out the set.

In the third set, Krickstein saved two match points with sizzling serve returns before hitting a backhand wide to give Dreekmann the victory.

"He doesn't look like a great player... but he's in the quarters so he must be doing something right," said Krickstein, 26, who failed to surpass his French Open best of a fourth round loss in 1985.

Larsson, ranked 46th in the world, said Yzaga appeared weary from a five-set victory over Michael Chang on Saturday.

In the upset-filled bottom half of the men's draw, Ivanisevic was the only seed among the eight players reaching the fourth round.

Two high-voltage quarterfinals are scheduled for today. Top-seeded Pete Sampras plays two-time champion Jim Courier, the No. 7 seed, and fourth-seeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine faces Sergi Bruguera, the No. 6 seed.



SLIP SLIDING AWAY – Toronto's Roberto Alomar scores a run as he gets by California Angels catcher Jorge Fabegas. (Reuter)

Mets down Reds 8-5, sweep series

NEW YORK (AP) – Bobby Bonilla set a team record with an RBI in his ninth straight game as the New York Mets beat the Cincinnati Reds 8-5 for a three-game sweep on Sunday.

Bonilla, who drove in two runs, broke the Mets' mark of eight straight games with an RBI set by Keith Hernandez in 1986 and matched by Jeff Kent earlier this season.

Bobby Jones (6-4) scattered eight hits, struck out seven and walked one in eight innings. John Franco pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Kent went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs. Erik Hanson (3-5) lasted 2⅔ innings, allowing six runs and 10 hits.

Phillies 4, Astros 2

David West, making only his second start of the season, and Heathcliff Slocumb held Houston hitless until a lead-off single in the ninth inning by Steve Finley.

West (1-4), moved from a relief role into the rotation after injuries deprived the Phillies of three of their starters, pitched six innings. He struck out seven and walked three before being pulled after 102 pitches.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Blue Jays 5, Angels 0

Todd Stottlemyre pitched a four-hitter and Roberto Alomar hit a two-run homer.

Stottlemyre (4-2), who hadn't pitched more than 6⅓ innings in his six previous starts this season, struck out five and walked three in his first complete game. It was his fourth career shutout.

Chuck Finley (4-4) gave up five hits and struck out seven in pitching his third complete game this season. He struck out six and walked two in losing for the first time in five starts.

Pat Borders also homered for the host Blue Jays.

Royals 10, Yankees 6

Vince Coleman tripled twice, singled twice and drove in three runs as the host Royals stopped the Yankees' four-game winning streak.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	29	18	.617	–
Montreal	28	20	.583	1½
New York	25	23	.521	4½
Florida	24	25	.490	6
Philadelphia	23	26	.469	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	27	22	.551	–
Houston	27	22	.551	–
St. Louis	24	23	.511	2
Chicago	21	26	.447	5
Pittsburgh	21	26	.447	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	28	22	.560	–
San Francisco	25	25	.500	3
Colorado	21	27	.438	6
San Diego	16	34	.320	12

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	32	14	.696	–
Boston	29	18	.617	3½
Baltimore	27	19	.587	5
Toronto	24	24	.500	9
Detroit	21	25	.457	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	28	18	.609	–
Cleveland	25	21	.543	3
Kansas City	24	23	.511	4½
Minnesota	24	23	.511	4½
Milwaukee	20	28	.417	9

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	23	28	.451	–
Texas	21	26	.447	–
Seattle	20	28	.417	1½
Oakland	13	36	.265	9

SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Chicago 4, Atlanta 2
Montreal 4, Colorado 3 (10)
Philadelphia 4, Houston 2
New York 8, Cincinnati 5
Los Angeles 4, Pittsburgh 3
San Diego 7, St. Louis 2
San Francisco 3, Florida 1
SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Cleveland 7, Oakland 5
Toronto 5, California 0
Milwaukee 9, Seattle 8
Baltimore 8, Chicago 4
Kansas City 10, New York 6
Texas 8, Boston 6
Detroit 5, Minnesota 1

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New Zealand, Essex draw three-day match

CHELMSFORD, England (Reuter) – New Zealand completed a satisfactory dress rehearsal yesterday for the first Test against England this week with a draw in their three-day match against Essex.

The New Zealanders, who have struggled with both bat and ball during a bleak English spring, followed up their first innings 428 for five declared by dismissing Essex for 334. They then batted out time, finishing on 108 for three.

Left-arm spinner Matthew Hart was the most successful of the New Zealand bowlers, taking four for 106 in a marathon spell of 44 overs while paceman Dion Nash captured three for 77.

Nash's form was one of the heartening aspects of the game for New Zealand, which lost its last first class match to Yorkshire by an innings.

But Danny Morrison, Chris Pringle and Michael Owens all face fitness tests before the Test starting at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Morrison, the key member of the attack, has a hamstring and groin injury although he has been bowling at a reasonable pace in the nets in recent days.

"The deadline would be Tuesday at Nottingham," said New Zealand manager Ken Sandlant.

"If someone like Danny Morrison was being looked at for the Test team we would want to have him moving freely by then."

Sandlant said he was optimistic about Pringle, who suffered back spasms on the first morning of the Essex match but added Owens, who has a hip strain, was still in trouble when he had to change direction suddenly.

Lancashire-Somerset

Wasim Akram with 8-30 swept Lancashire to their first English county championship victory of the season yesterday as Somerset crashed, beaten by an innings and 88 runs.

The Pakistani all-rounder eclipsed his previous Lancashire best of 8-68 against Yorkshire last season.

Somerset, resuming on 136 for five, tumbled to 160 all out in 29 minutes to register its eighth defeat in nine matches as Wasim claimed five wickets for nine runs in 28 balls.

After taking 5-117 in the first innings, Wasim ended the match with a total haul of 13-147.

Prolific West Indian Brian Lara hit his sixth century in seven innings as Warwickshire reached 169 for three on the final day of their match against Middlesex at Lord's.

Lara faced 111 balls and hammered 18 boundaries in his 140 to bounce back from a first ball duck in the Sunday League.

At Ilkeston: Nottinghamshire beat Derbyshire by one wicket. Derbyshire 230 in 125.4 overs and 222. Nottinghamshire 199 in 80.4 overs and 255-9 (P.Johnson 62, P.Pollard 53; P.DeFreitas 4-61). Derbyshire 5 points, Nottinghamshire 19.

At Worcester: Match drawn. Northamptonshire 112 in 51.4 overs and 357-6 declared (M.Loye 107 not out, A.Penberthy 69, K.Curran 61). Worcestershire 256 in 99.4 overs and 57-2. Worcestershire 6 points, Northamptonshire 4.

Rangers hope to end 54 years of frustration

NEW YORK (Reuter) – Fifty years ago as a massive allied invasion force prepared for the great crusade that was D-Day, it had already been four years since the New York Rangers won their last Stanley Cup.

After the Rangers survived a classic seven-game trial by fire with the Devils, only the upstart Vancouver Canucks can now keep New York from ending one of the most notorious title droughts in sports.

The Rangers and Canucks begin the best-of-seven battle for the Stanley Cup today.

When it is over, either the Rangers will have ended 54 years of frustration, or fans in British Columbia will dance in the streets while supporters of other teams dust off their "1940" banners for another season of taunting the Broadway Blueshirts.

The Rangers, who skated to the best record in the NHL this year (52-24-8), are making their first appearance in the finals since 1979 and fourth since the year no one will let them forget.

The Canucks, looking for a fourth consecutive series upset, return to the finals after a 12-year absence. They were swept in the 1982 championship by the Islanders.

The Rangers posess a wealth of talent that begins with future Hall of Fame center Mark Messier and All-Star defenseman Brian Leetch.

Messier and Leetch, who spearhead the league's most potent powerplay, are players who can and have almost single-handedly carried the team to victory at times during these playoffs.

It was Messier's third period hat-trick in Game 6 against the Devils that kept the Rangers alive for Friday's dramatic double overtime win in the series decider with their cross-river rivals from New Jersey.

New York may be without an NHL title for more than half a century, but the club has surrounded Messier with six of his former Edmonton teammates, including Adam Graves who this year became the first Ranger ever to score more than 50 goals in a season. The seven former Oilers own a total of 26 Stanley Cup rings and know what it takes to win it all.

Perhaps overshadowed by the early playoff success of the Cinderella San Jose Sharks, the Canucks are enjoying a fairy tale run of their own as they close in on the first Stanley Cup in the club's 24-year history.

With their rollercoaster 41-40-3 season well behind them, the Canucks went on to dispose of the Dallas Stars and end Toronto's Stanley Cup dreams in five games.

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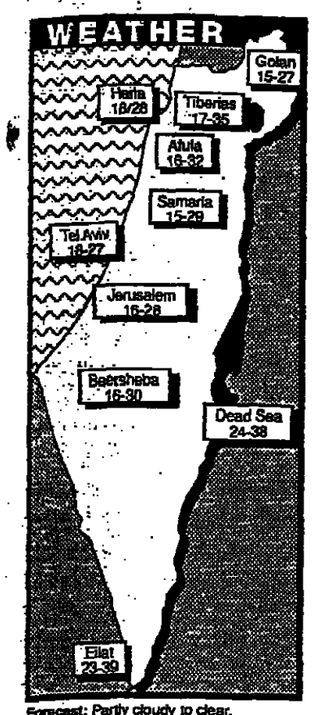
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WEATHER



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	05	41	16	61	pcloudy
Berlin	04	39	15	59	cloudy
Buenos Aires	06	42	15	59	clear
Cairo	18	64	34	93	clear
Chicago	18	64	29	84	clear
Copenhagen	04	39	13	55	clear
Frankfurt	05	41	18	61	cloudy
Geneva	11	61	19	66	cloudy
Helsinki	06	43	12	54	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	81	30	86	rain
Johnny	02	36	18	64	clear
Lisbon	11	52	24	75	clear
London	07	45	18	64	clear
Los Angeles	16	61	19	66	clear
Madrid	15	59	32	90	pcloudy
Montreal	05	41	19	66	rain
Moscow	12	54	18	64	cloudy
New York	16	61	27	81	cloudy
Paris	05	43	18	64	clear
Rome	13	56	24	75	clear
Stockholm	05	41	12	54	cloudy
Sydney	09	48	19	66	cloudy
Tokyo	17	63	25	77	clear
Toronto	09	48	24	75	cloudy

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Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. The Story of Masada◇Alessi - For the Sake of Use◇Photography at the Bauhaus◇Weissenhofsiedlung, a model neighborhood◇ David Reeb: Paintings 1982-94◇Tel Aviv - Temporary Documentation, the visual signs of Tel Aviv◇culture◇16th-19th Cent. European Art◇Impressionism, Post-Impressionism◇Jewish Artists in Europe between the Wars◇Moshe and Sara Mayer Coll.◇Sculpture◇20th Cent. Modern Masters - Mizne-Blumental Coll.◇Video: Bill Viola, The Reflecting Pool (collected works). Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **Education Center,** Tel. 691915/6/7.

ORT: To visit our technological High Schools, call Jerusalem 513141; Tel Aviv 5203222, 5203293; Netanya 823744.

NA'AMAT (P.W.). Visit our projects: Tel Aviv, 6910791; Jerusalem, 244878.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 706660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810106; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282068.

Tel Aviv: Dizengoff, 132 Dizengoff, 5223390; Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 5232383. Till 3 a.m. Wednesday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 5223535. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 6413730.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizmann; Kfar Sava, 973228.

Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 822842.

Krayot area: Neveh Haim, 77 Moshe Sharon; Kiryat Haim, 728002.

Haifa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 371472.

Herzliya: Ciel Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Ciel Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (orthopedics, pediatrics, ophthalmology). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital.

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics); Ichilov (internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 851333	Karmiel* 988555
Ashkelon 551332	Kfar Sava* 03-9311111
Bat Yam* 5511111	Kiryat Ono 9311111
Beersheba* 274787	K. Shmona* 944334
Bnei Brak 5793333	Nahariya* 923333
Bnei Brak* 5793333	Netanya* 823333
Dan Region* 5793333	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Eilat* 372333	Rehovot* 461333
Hadera* 09-623333	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 512333	Safed 920333
Hakfar* 9201333	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Holon* 5511111	Tiberias* 790111
Jerusalem* 522133	

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9710.

Ezra – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 610303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 59831131), Haifa 672222, Beersheba 281728, Netanya 825110, Karmiel 9989410, Kfar Sava 974556, Hadera 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours): Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 660111, Eilat 31977.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-325747, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Emergency dental clinic (24 hours) 02-652303.

FIRE 102

FLIGHTS

24 Hours Flight Information Service: Arrivals only, 03-9731111 (Hebrew), 03-9731122 (English).

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ISRAEL FESTIVAL

HELEN KAYE

LAST Night on Earth and *D-Man in the Waters* are included in one of two programs the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company will perform at the festival. A Jones dance grabs at the emotions and the intellect. Highly recommended. Program A at 8:30 tonight at the Haifa Theater.

THE multimedia *Laterna Magika* built around Odysseus's wanderings starts its three-performance run at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyenei Ha'uma) tonight at 8:30.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

ACTOR Yossi Graber gives the performance of his life as Shylock in the Cameri Theater production of *The Merchant of Venice*, flamboyantly directed by Omri Nitzan. Graber's Shylock is a man for whom the meaning of his existence disintegrates when his daughter Jessica is seduced from Jewry to the Christian world. Graber's performance is meticulous, nuanced and heartbreaking. Tonight on the mainstage at 8:30 (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).



Bill T. Jones in one of two programs he will dance at the Israel Festival.

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

TUESDAY is becoming the best night for watching American TV shows. If you don't mind missing the news, turn to Star Plus at 8 for the snappy detective series, *Moonlighting*. When that's over, switch to Channel 1 for *Roseanne* at 9.

Sink your teeth into the double-length episode of *Seinfeld* tonight, starting at 10:10 and running until 11. Then, for dessert right after *Seinfeld*, there's *Frasier*, the new comedy spin-off from *Cheers*.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IT could very well be the chamber concert of the season. At 8:30 tonight, the Tel Aviv Museum presents clarinetist Sharon Kam and pianist Itamar Golan in a joint recital, performing works by Saint-Saens, Reger, Poulenc and Brahms. These two excellent young musicians work perfectly in tandem, and their previous recitals here were sensational. This time, by the way, Golan will read selections of his own poetry.

DALIA Atlas conducts a Tchaikovsky program at 8 tonight at the Churchill Auditorium of the Technion in Haifa. It features his First Symphony and First Piano Concerto, with Natasha Tadson as soloist. The orchestra is comprised of members of the Atlas Camerata and the Technion Symphony Orchestra.

FILMS

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **BLANC** – The middle film in Krzystzof Kieslowski's French-flag-colored trilogy is a ruefully funny movie, the best so far by the director, whose newfound, easy touch corresponds powerfully to his old, dark obsessions. Having purged himself of *Blue*'s lofty operatics, Kieslowski has let down his moralizing guard. Now he can laugh a little, quip in his mother tongue, rest easy with open endings. (Polish and French dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 724131 **Arizona Dream** 7 ★ **The Ballad of the Sad Cafe** 10 ★ **Berlin Um Die Ecke** 9:30 G.G. GIL **Jerusalem Mall (Malha)** ☎ 788448 **Naked Gun 33⅓** 1:30, 5, 8, 10 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** □ **The Paper** 1:30, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ **Pelican Brief** 1:30, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 1:30, 5, 8:30 ★ **Max and Morris** 1:30, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ **California** 1:30, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 1:30, 7:15, 9:45 JERUSALEM THEATER ☎ 617167 20 Marcus St. **Blanc** 7, 9:30 ORION OR 1-6 ☎ 252914 4 Shamai St. **Little Buddha** 7, 9:15 ★ **Leon the Pig Farmer** 5 ★ **Wayne's World 2** □ **The Woman who Made Sesame Oil** □ **Orlando** 5, 7:15, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 792799 **Credit Card Reservations** ☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot **Angie** □ **Blink** □ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Beverly Hillbillies** □ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Shadowlands** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Kika** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 RON 1-2 ☎ 234704 1 Rabbi Akiva St. **Philadelphia** □ **Hear No Evil** 5, 7:15, 9:30

TEL AVIV
RAV-CHEN☎ 5282288* Dizengoff Center **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Blink** □ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Angie** 11, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Hear No Evil** 11, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 CINEMATHEQUE 1–2 ☎ 6917181 2 Sprinzak St. Green Day Festival ★ Students' Films, Prog. 13, 9:30 a.m. ★ Students' Films, Prog. 14, 12 noon ★ Photography Workshop summing-up, 3 ★ Students' Films, Prog. 15, 3 ★ Students' Films, Prog. 16, 5:30 ★ Students' Films, Prog. 17, 8 ★ Nature Films Workshop 8:30 p.m. ★ Students' Films, Prog. 18, 10 DEKEL ☎ 5443200 94 Yehuda Hamaccabi St. **Philadelphia** 7:30, 9:45 DIZENGOFF 1-3 ☎ 200485 Dizengoff Center **Blanc** □ **Romeo is Bleeding** 11, 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Piano** 11, 3, 7 ★ **Belle Epoque** 1, 5:15, 9:45 GAN HA'IR 71 Ibn Gabirol St. **The House of the Spirits** 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Little Buddha** 2, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GAT ☎ 6967888* 28 Ibn Gabirol St. **Shadowlands** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON ☎ 5236992 87 Ben Yehuda St. **The Unbelievable Truth** 6:30, 10 ★ **Trust** 8 HAKOLNOA ZOA HOUSE ☎ 6959341 26 Ibn Gabirol St. **The Joy Luck Club** 9:45 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5228080 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Fearless** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Max and Morris** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 **Kalifornia** 12:15, 2:15, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Fan Fan** 12, 2:15, 5 ★ **Kika** 12, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Farewell to my Concubine** 2, 7, 9:30 ★ **Naked** 12, 5, 7:30, 10 MAXIM **The Age of Innocence** 7:15, 9:30 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674* Opera House **Angie** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Age of Innocence** □ **Remains of the Day** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 G.G. SHAHAF 1-2 ☎ 5271645 Kikar Namir **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45 ★ **Max and Morris** 5:30, 8, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St., **Intersection** □ **In the Name of the Father** □ **The Paper** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **The Paper** □ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 6961297 27 Shaul Hamelekh Boulevard **The Woman Who Made Sesame Oil** 5, 7:45, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 **The Woman Who Made Sesame Oil** 7 ★ **Pelican Brief** 9:15 ★ **The Beverly Hillbillies** 7 ★ **Remains of the Day** 9:15 ATZMON **Naked Gun 33⅓** □ **The Paper** □ **Baraka** □ **Intersection** 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ **Fearless** 4:30, 7, 9:15 CINEMA CAFÉ MORIAH ☎ 242477 **Kalifornia** 7:15, 9:30 ORLY **Shadowlands** 6:45, 9:15 PANORAMA **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **White** 4:30, 7, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 **Blink** 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ **Blind Side** 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 4168998 **Hear No Evil** □ **Philadelphia** □ **Malice** 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ **Shadowlands** 4:30, 6:45, 9:15 ★ **My Father the Hero** □ **Blink** □ **Angie** 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 **My Father the Hero** 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ **Angie** 4:30, 7, 9:15 ★ **Kika** 7, 9:15 ★ Aristocats *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL **The Beverly Hillbillies** 5:30, 7:45, 10 ★ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **Philadelphia** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Max and Morris** 5:30, 7:45, 10 ★ **Fearless** 5, 7:30, 10 RON 1-2 ☎ 566077 **The Piano** □ **Romeo is Bleeding** 7:30, 9:30

ASHKELON
RAV CHEN 1-6 ☎ 711223 **Naked Gun 33⅓** □ **Blink** □ **Max and Morris** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9 ★ **Remains of the Day** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 **Max and Morris** □ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **My Father the Hero** □ **Blink** □ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Shadowlands** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9

BEERSHEBA
G.G. ESHEL ☎ 274073 **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 235278 **Blink** □ **Malice** □ **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5, 7:30, 9:45

HADERA
LEV 1-4 ☎ 343555 **Blink** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Naked** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 10

HERZLIYA
ACCADIA CINEMA CLUB ☎ 557799 **Fearless** 7:30, 9:45 COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902666 **Malice** □ **Remains of the Day** 7:30, 10 DANIEL HOTEL ☎ 544044 **THE AUDITORIUM Baraka** 7:15, 9:30 STAR☎ 569068 29 Sokolow St. **Naked Gun 33⅓** 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Kika** 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** 7:30, 9:45

KARMIEL
CINEMA 1–3 ☎ 887277 **Short Cuts** □ **Blue** 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Kika** 10 ★ **The Beverly Hillbillies** 5, 7:30 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **The Paper** □ **Blink** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Philadelphia** 5, 7:30, 10

KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. KIRYON 1-9 ☎ 779166 **The Secret Garden** 4:45 ★ **Baraka** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **The Paper** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 7, 9:30 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** □ **Look Who's Talking 2** 4:45 ★ **Max and Morris** □ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **Jungle Book** 4:45 ★ **Intersection** 7, 9:30 ★ **Fearless** 7, 9:30 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:45, 9:15

KIRYAT MALACHI
HAKIRYA **On Deadly Ground** 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Aladdin** 5 **MIGDAL HA'EMEK**
RAV CHEN **The Beverly Hillbillies** □ **My Father the Hero** □ **Blue** 7, 9:30

NAHARIYA
HOD ☎ 920502 **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 404729 **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **The Paper** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** □ **Grumpy Old Men** □ **Kalifornia** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **The Paper** 5, 7:45, 10 ★ RAV-CHEN 1-4 ☎ 618570 **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Hear No Evil** □ **Blink** □ **Angie** 5, 7:30, 9:45

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL **Max and Morris** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Remains of the Day** 5, 7:30, 9:45

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL 1-3 ☎ 9300844 **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **The Paper** □ **Grumpy Old Men** 5, 7:30, 10 G. G. RAM 1-3 ☎ 9340818 **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Max and Morris** 5:30, 8, 10

RA'ANANA
MOFET **White** 7:30, 9:30 PARK **My Father the Hero** □ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Hear No Evil** 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Philadelphia** 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Shadowlands** 7:30, 10

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 797121 **Angie** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ **Shadowlands** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 **Blink** □ **Naked Gun 33⅓** □ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45

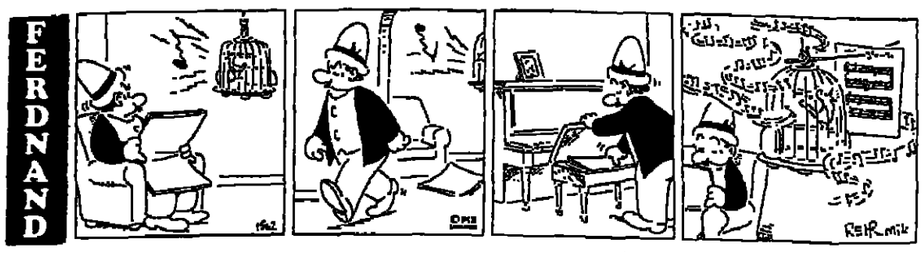
RAMLA
HECHAL HATARBUT **Little Buddha** 7:15, 9:45

REHOVOT
CHEN 1–4 ☎ 465979 **Shadowlands** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 6, 9 ★ **Blink** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 7, 9:45

RISHON LEZION
NA'AMAN ☎ 941522 **Little Buddha** 7:30, 9:45 RAV-CHEN 1–4 ☎ 9670503/7 **My Father the Hero** □ **Angie** □ **Blink** □ **Hear No Evil** 5, 7:30, 9:45 RISHON ☎ 9653230 **Ma Saison Preferee** 7:30, 9:45 G.G. RON 1-3 ☎ 9662175 **Blind Side** 5, 7:15, 9:30 ★ **Wide Sargossa Sea** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The House of the Spirits** 5, 7:15, 9:30 HAZAHAV **Grumpy Old Men** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **The Paper** 4:45, 7:45, 10

RISHON NEW IND. AREA
GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619669 **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5, 8, 10 ★ **Max and Morris** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **Blink** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **My Father the Hero** 5:30, 7:45, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 STAR 1-4 ☎ 9619885-7 27 Lishinsky St. **The Beverly Hillbillies** 7:45, 10 ★ **Kika** 7:30, 10 ★ **Philadelphia** 7:15, 10 ★ **Little Buddha** 7:15 ★ **Blanc** 10

UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎ 06-561332 **Malice** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Naked Gun 33⅓** 5:30, 8, 10 ★ **Romeo is Bleeding** 5, 7:15, 10 ★ **The Beverly Hillbillies** □ **The Secret Garden** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Max and Morris** 8, 10



TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6.30 News in Arabic **8.45** Cartoons **7.00** Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8.00 Program Details **8.05** Keep Fit **8.15** Literature **8.45** Arithmetic **8.55** Literature **9.20** English: Candy Can Do It **9.40** Children's stories **10.00** Arabic stories **10.15** Family Relations **10.45** Hey Dad **11.10** Mathematical Eye **11.25** Eretz Yisrael Geography **11.50** Science **12.10** Talmud **12.30** Language for Bagrut **12.55** Life Sciences **13.10** French: Bienvenue en France **13.20** Literature and Film **14.00** Surprise Train **14.15** Hey Binba **14.30** Secret Valley – adventure series **15.00** News program for children

■ CHANNEL 1

15.35 Tom and Jerry **16.00** News update **16.15** Kids' Court **17.00** A New Evening **17.35** Northwood **18.00** Heathcliff (cartoon) **18.15** News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18.30 Apropos **19.00** News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19.30 The Cosby Show **20.00** Mabat **20.55** Live broadcast of Lotto results **21.00** Roseanne – comedy series **21.25** Conference Call – talk show hosted by Nissim Mishal **22.00** Personal Strength – program dealing with the personal stories of different people, some well-known, others not. Razi Abu Ji'ab, who spent more than 16 years in Israeli prisons for belonging to a terrorist organization, opposed the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO. **23.00** Late-night news **23.05** Film: Bananas (1971, Woody Allen) – Comedy starring and directed by Woody Allen about a bored man leading the average American life. Somehow he gets to San Marcus, a banana republic in South America, where he joins the revolutionary movement and soon becomes the leader of the country. (79 mins)

■ THE NEW CHANNEL 2

14.05 Spending – Consumerism magazine for youth **14.30** African Skies – adventure series **15.00** Children of the Rainbow **15.30** Mike and Angelo **15.50** Daffy Duck **16.00** The Bold and the Beautiful – American soap opera **17.00** News **17.05** This Is It (rpt) **18.00** All (comedy) **18.30** Paradise Beach **19.00** Rock Shock – rock trivia game show **19.30** Who's the Boss **20.00** News **20.30** Wheel of Fortune – Hebrew version **21.00** With Dan Margalit **22.10** NYPD – drama series about the New York police force fighting crime **23.35** A Small Place **00.00** News

■ JORDAN TV (unofficial)

17.30 French programs **19.00** News in French **19.30** News in Hebrew **19.45** Medical Drugs **20.00** News in Arabic **20.30** Step By Step **21.10** Moon Over Miami **22.00** News in English **22.20** The Cape Rebel **23.10** The Second Half (comedy)

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

14.00 700 Club **14.55** Film: Secret Agent – Author and woman try to find and kill a spy. Starring Peter Lorre, John Gielgud **16.30** Mighty Mouse **17.20** Dangermouse **17.45** Superbook **18.10** Musical Artist Documentary **19.10** Rescue 911 **20.00** World News Tonight (Arabic) **20.30** CNN Headline News **21.00** America's Funniest Home Videos **21.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation **22.20** Moon Over Miami **23.10** 700 Club **00.00** Film: Secret Agent (rpt)

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8.00 Local broadcast **9.00** Attitudes **9.45** The Young and the Restless **10.30** Guests in the Living Room **11.00** Major Dad **11.30** Antonella **12.15** Pasquale's Kitchen **12.40** Falcon Crest **13.35** Perfect Strangers **14.05** Mann and Machine **15.00** Trapper John, M.D. **15.50** Murder She Wrote **16.40** The Powers That Be **17.05** New WKRP In Cincinnati **17.30** Love Boat **18.20** Neighbors **18.45** The Young and the Restless **19.30** Local broadcast **20.00** Antonella **20.50** Falcon Crest **21.40** Cheers **22.10** Seinfeld – double length **23.00** Frasier **23.25** The Trials of Rosie O'Neill **00.15** The Jackie Thomas Show **00.40** Quantum Leap **1.30** Kojak

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10.30 Pennies from Heaven (1936) (rpt) **12.00** Viva la Vie (1984) – French film by Claude Lelouche about the mysterious disappearance of the head of an international company **14.00** Curiosity Kills (1990) (rpt) **15.30** Short movie **16.00** Florida Straits (1986) – Raul Julia plays a Cuban refugee who returns to Cuba to look for treasure hidden in the jungle **17.35** Going in Style (1979) (rpt) **19.25** Boris and Natasha (1990) (rpt) **21.00** The Hidden (1987) – futuristic thriller with Kyle McLaughlin as an alien helping LA cop Michael Noury fight an violent alien from a different planet **22.35** Fever (1991) – violent drama about an ex-con who discovers his girlfriend has been kidnapped by his enemies from jail. Starring Armand Assante **00.15** Deep Cover (1992) (rpt) **2.00** Good Morning Vietnam (1987) (rpt)

■ CHILDREN'S CHANNEL (6)

6.30 Cartoons **9.30** Cartoons **10.05** Ninja Turtles **10.30** Three Little Ghosts **11.05** Silver Hawks **11.30** Family Ties **12.00** Little House on the Prairie **12.50** Flying Classroom **13.30** Cartoons **14.05** Casper and Friends **14.30** Piggsburg Pigs **15.05** Silver Hawks **15.30** Harry and the Hendersons **16.00** MacGyver **17.00** Kofiko **17.20** Flying Classroom **17.30** Cartoons **18.05** Ninja Turtles **18.30** Three Little Ghosts **19.00** Perfect Strangers **19.35** Young Indiana Jones

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

20.35 The Honeymooners **21.00** Love Thy Neighbor **21.30** In a Lonely Place (1950) – melodrama starring Humphrey Bogart as a Hollywood scriptwriter who escapes a murder charge but loses his girlfriend through his violent temperament. Directed by Nicholas Ray (90 mins) **23.00** Tystnaden (The Silence) (1963) (rpt)

■ DISCOVERY CHANNEL (8)

6.00 Open University: History **11.00** Equinox **12.00** Pacific Age **13.00** Extra Dimension **14.00** Open University **16.00** Equinox **17.00** Pacific Age **18.00** Open University **20.00** Invention **20.30** Festivals of the World **21.00** To Kill a Whale **22.00** High Interest **23.00** Classic Cars **23.30** On Top of the World **00.00** Open University

■ SUPER CHANNEL

6.30 NBC News **7.00** Business Headlines **7.30** NBC News **8.00** ITN World News Live **8.15** US Market Wrap **8.30** CNBC Business Report **9.00** ITN World News **9.15** Market Wrap **9.30** NBC News **10.00** Super Shop **11.00** Geraldo **12.00** Disaster Chronicles **12.30** Equal Time **13.00** Today's Business **14.00** Today **14.30** FT Business Today **15.00** Today **15.30** The Money Wheel **18.30** Business Tonight **19.00** Today **20.00** ITN World News Live **20.30** Adventure **21.30** Frontline **22.30** Champions **23.00** ITN World News Live **23.30** The Tonight Show with Jay Leno **00.30** Real Personal

■ STAR PLUS

7.30 Neighbors **8.00** Santa Barbara **9.00** The Bold and The Beautiful **9.30** Donahue **10.30** Oprah Winfrey **11.30** Yan Can Cook **12.00** Wind in the Willows **12.30** Papa Beaver's Storytime **13.00** Force Five **13.30** Crossbow **14.00** For Your Entertainment **14.30** Neighbors **15.00** M*A*S*H **15.30** Flying Doctors **16.30** Dynasty **17.30** The Bold and The Beautiful **18.00** Santa Barbara **19.00** The Wonder Years **19.30** Doogie Howser, M.D. **20.00** Moonlighting **21.00** M*A*S*H **21.30** El For Your Entertainment **22.00** Neighbors **22.30** The Wonder Years **23.00** Doogie Howser, M.D. **23.30** Moonlighting **00.30** Donahue

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6.05 Waking to Music **9.00** Muffat: Sonata for Five (London Baroque); Bach: 15 Preludes and 2 Fugues (Gould); Rameau: Anacreon, ballet in one act; Andriessen: Variations on theme by Couperin (Radio Holland/Porcelain); Mozart: Piano trio in B flat K502 (London Forte Piano, period instruments); Schubert: Symphony no 4 "Tragic;" Debussy: Nocturnes arr by Ravel for 2 pianos; Haydn: Symphony no 15 (Austro-Hungarian/Fischer); Beethoven: String quartet op 74 "Harp" (Budapest Qt); Bartok: Violin concerto no 2 (Midori/Berlin PO/Mehta) **14.05** Encore **16.00** Bach: English Suite no 5 (Schiff), Partita no 6 (Gould); J.F. Le Sueur: Oratorio for Coronation of Charles X **18.00** From the Recording Studio – Shlomi Shaban (piano). Mozart: Adagio in B minor K540; Brahms: 4 Ballades op 10; Mordechai Seter: Capriccio for piano; Bach: Prelude and Fugue in E; Ravel: Alborada del gracioso **19.05** Locatelli: Sonata no 5 in D for flute and continuo (Preston, Pleeth, Hogwood); Haydn: String quartet in D minor op 76/2 (Sharon Qt); Dvorak: Bagatelles for string trio and harmonium op 47 (Castleman, Harbach); Martinu: Promenades for violin, flute and harpsichord (Castleman, Boyd, Harbach) **20.03** Palestrina Mirrored in his Time **21.00** A Matter of Agreement **23.00** Golden Generation – Jascha Heifetz in works by Elgar, Godowsky and Rimsky-Korsakov

■ RADIO 1

6.18 Mishna, Gemara and Tora **7.00** News in English **7.15** News in French **7.30** Hebrew songs **8.05** Dial **9.05** It's Open **10.05** Teleradio **11.05** Finger on the Pulse **12.05** Land of Israel **13.00** News and program in English **13.30** News and program in French **14.05** Youth programs **15.30** Ethnic music **16.05** In the Headlines **17.00** News in English **17.02** News in French **17.05** Israel Festival magazine **18.05** Religious programs **20.00** Evening news **20.50** Hazanut **23.05** Left Luggage

■ RADIO 2

6.06 This Morning – news **8.05** Another Matter **9.05** Popular songs **10.05** It's All Talk **12.05** Midday – news, commentary, music **14.05** Magic Moments **15.05** Foreign Affairs **15.45** Foreign Press **16.05** The Color of Money **17.05** Five After the News **18.05** Today – newsreel **19.05** Social Hour **20.05** Hebrew songs **21.05** News headlines **21.15** Jazz and more **23.05** Middle of the Night **00.05** Midnight Magazine **00.30** Middle of the Night, continued **1.05** Tuesday Night Club **5.05** First Light

■ RADIO 3

Music all day and night

■ REKA

18.00 News in English **18.15** News in French **20.00** News in Russian

■ ARMY RADIO

5.02 Good Morning IDF **6.00** Announcements **8.05** Broadcast University – The Big Bang Theory **8.30** Good Morning Israel **7.15** A New Morning **8.00** Good Morning Israel **9.05** It's Difficult in the Morning **10.05** Wafers **10.49** Today's Entertainment **11.05** Right Now **13.00** Midday News **13.15** Something for Midday **14.05** A Happy World **15.05** Someone to Talk To **16.00** An Hour Before **17.00** Good Evening Israel **18.05** Economics **18.45** Army and Security **19.05** Music **20.00** Evening news **20.30** The Heart of the Matter **21.05** Check 5 **22.05** All That Jazz **23.05** This Was the Day **00.15** Night Birds **2.00** We Don't Want to Sleep

■ ARMY ON WHEELS

7.05 The State on the Way **9.05** Hebrew songs **11.05** Sun **13.05** Air Conditioning **14.05** Battery **15.05** Program with Dubi Lentz **16.05** Driving Wisely **18.05** Program with Lea Oz **20.05** Drive In **22.05** Good Night

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Robinson Crusoe found a track (8)
5 Claim maybe a quarter—there's vindictiveness! (6)
9 Quiet craftsman, though prejudiced (8)
10 The way a little citrus tree tends to grow big (6)
12 The wild rose for example can line a minor road (9)
13 A story absorbing novices in the city (5)
14 Procure a key, being fly (4)
16 Some serving men, work over, take a rest—lay up (7)
19 Individual judging a part about right with little hesitation (7)
21 Appeal for help and love, as is only fair (2-2)
24 Tries different ceremonial forms (5)
25 An eccentric nature (9)
27 A man from Armagh (6)
28 Going through a

A-G defends position on Ben-Porat to panel

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-General Michael Ben-Yair yesterday defended his criticism of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to the Knesset state control committee, but his explanations left the committee unconvinced.

"You haven't responded to the main problem: the impression which has been created that you serve the government and the prime minister ... rather than acting as an objective attorney-general for the whole country," said MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), summing up the feelings of several opposition MKs.

Ben-Yair devoted most of his address to defending his publicly stated position: If the comptroller tells the public she is asking him to consider criminal investigations into certain matters – which, he added, he does not believe she has any obligation to do – then she must also specify which matters.

"This will remove the suspicion of criminality from others," he said, arguing that by not specifying the subjects, the comptroller opens the door to speculation that will touch on many innocent people."

Ben-Porat, in contrast, says the real damage to innocent people comes from revealing the matters she is asking the attorney-general to look into when there might turn out to be no basis for a criminal investigation.

However, Ben-Yair denied that he supported revealing the names of the people involved.

He also charged that Ben-Porat's approach is responsible for the impression created in the press that Ben-Yair had recently asked the police to investigate matters from the 1993 state comptroller's report to distract attention from the 1994 report. Because Ben-Porat refused to specify the matters she had asked the attorney-general to look into, he claimed, reporters went to the police for information, and the police gave them the list of issues from the 1993 report instead.

However, he confirmed that he had asked the police to investigate seven issues from the previous report – including three relating to the Housing Ministry – during the month preceding publication of the current report. The comptroller had asked him to look into most of these matters in September.

Most of the committee said Ben-Yair's explanation was insufficient. Even if his approach is correct, they said – a claim which many of them rejected – the proper way to handle the disagreement would have been to contact the comptroller directly, not to go to the press.

Ben-Porat also stressed this point.

"[Ben-Yair] knows my address and phone number, and he knows I'm always willing to listen," she said.

It was clear, however, that Ben-Yair's attacks on her had cut deeply.

"He interfered in matters over which he has no authority, giving a legal opinion to someone who doesn't need any legal opinions from him," she said. "It's not his job to preach morality to me, or to say that his legal interpretation is more correct than mine."



Diego Maradonna seeks 'God's helping hand' as he slips a piece of paper with a prayer into the Western Wall during the Argentinian soccer squad's visit to the capital yesterday. Maradonna also met yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and told reporters he had been as excited as when he met with Fidel Castro. The Argentine team plays Israel this evening as part of its final preparations for the coming World Cup finals (related story, page 10). (Brian Hendler)

Knesset panel to appeal for inquiry into fate of Fifties' Yemenite children

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Knesset immigration absorption committee decided yesterday to call on the prime minister to set up a commission of inquiry into the alleged disappearance of Yemenite immigrant children in the Fifties.

"There is no choice, in view of the growing public dissent, but to ask Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to set up such a commission, despite the bad timing," committee chairman Emanuel Zissman said.

He said many MKs had felt it would not be educational to call for such a commission on the heels of the Yehud affair, but that he had been convinced there would be further desperate acts by other groups if the public were not given the facts once and for all.

"The prime minister does not appear to be aware of the feelings of the people," Zissman said. "We shall go as a delegation from this committee to tell him."

Yigal Yosef, head of the local council in Rosh Ha'ayin – the town with the largest concentration of persons of Yemenite descent – told the committee his constituents are so upset by the situation that "there could be a big explosion there."

Turning to Dr. Moshe Shalgi, who has headed a Knesset committee looking into the question for the past six years, Yosef said the committee's mandate had been too narrow. He said there are many unanswered questions and that even parents of Yemenite origin should be questioned, because there were rumors they had kidnapped other children after their own children died in the 1953 polio epidemic.

MK Dov Shilanksy (Likud) went even further, saying a general inquiry should be made into the disappearance of children in the *mabarot* (transit camps).

"There were Iraqi children and even a few Ashkenazi cases," said Shilansky, who was in such a camp himself.

Shalgi said his committee had gathered many documents and has the full cooperation of all concerned. He said it is inconceivable to accept talk of a "conspiracy" on the part of the authorities to "kidnap" the children and turn them over to Holocaust survivors who had lost their offspring. Shalgi did concede there had been bungling, "although we found no evidence of criminal involvement."

He said there are 22 children whose whereabouts are still unknown. Other members of the Yemenite community talk of some 500.

1993 law has reduced political appointees

EVELYN GORDON

THE number of political appointments in government companies has been sharply reduced by a law passed last March, Judge Mordechai Ben-Dror told the Knesset law committee yesterday.

Ben-Dror heads the committee for approving appointments which was established by the law.

Ben-Dror told the committee that in the 10 months since the committee began its work, it has rejected 41 of the 342 appointments it examined – about 12 percent. Of these, 18 were disqualified because of their political connections, two because of personal connections to the appointing minister, eight because of conflicts of interest, and eight for not having the proper academic credentials or work experience.

The disqualified appointments were made by the tourism, agriculture, energy, housing, and communications ministers.

Ben-Dror said that when the committee first started its work, it disqualified some 20% of all candidates. Since then, however, the percentage has decreased to almost zero, he said, because ministers now understand that political appointments won't be approved, and therefore don't propose them.

"The Knesset created the appropriate tools so that there won't be political appointments," he said.

Since directors of government companies are reappointed every three years, all 3,000 of them should pass through the committee within this time period, he noted.

Ben-Dror gave his report during a discussion on a bill by MK Eli Dayan (Labor), which was approved for first reading.

The bill states that a person can serve as chairman or managing director of a government company even if he doesn't have an academic degree, if he has had at least 12 years' management experience, including six in a company or organization whose activity is as sizable as that of the company for which he is a candidate, and if Ben-Dror's committee agrees there are good reasons for the appointment.

Currently, the law requires chairmen and managing directors of government firms to have an academic degree, plus five years of experience. However, the committee found that this requirement kept out people with a wealth of experience, from whom the companies could have benefited.

The committee also discussed the question of affirmative action to place women on the boards of government companies. Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) noted that while the number of female appointees has tripled since the new law was passed, they still constitute a very small percentage of most boards.

Ben-Dror said women constituted only 10% of the appointments his committee has approved. If no women serve on a given board, however, and no female candidates are proposed, the committee asks the appointing minister to reconsider his list of candidates.

Zucker said the committee will discuss ways to increase affirmative action for women when Dayan's bill returns after its first reading. In the meantime, he said, he will ask the various ministers to make a greater effort in this area.

Namir appoints two Labor friends to posts

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir appointed two of her close associates to top ministry posts yesterday, Israel Radio reported.

Shuli Haimson, who supported Namir in the Labor Party primaries two years ago, was named to replace Gidi Kadmon, who is identified with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, as deputy director-general of the National Insurance Institute. Kadmon was one of seven senior NII officials who resigned because of differences with Namir.

Dr. Ya'acov Hecht, who served for many years as the ministry's director of professional training, also left his post. He is apparently to be replaced by Dr. Shimon Amar, who also helped Namir in her primary campaign.

Also leaving because of differences with Namir is Yosef Gurfel, head of the Institute for Labor Productivity and Production. No replacement has yet been named.

Meshulam asks leave to officiate at brother's wedding

EVELYN GORDON

UZI Meshulam yesterday appealed to the Supreme Court for permission to officiate at his brother's wedding this evening.

Deputy President Aharon Barak will hear the appeal this afternoon.

The appeal, presented by attorneys Dr. Haim Misgav and Shmuel Flishman, argues that there are ways to ensure that Meshulam returns to custody after the wedding, and therefore there is no reason to keep him in prison.

Furthermore, the attorneys noted, Meshulam's remand expires on Thursday – a mere two days after the wedding. Thus, preventing him from attending is merely purposeless cruelty.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Huminer had turned down Meshulam's request on Friday, saying his behavior is dangerous to the public.

Meshulam and his followers had been holed up in his Yehud home, with an arsenal of weapons, for six weeks prior to his arrest. Shlomo Assouline, 19, was killed by police, when he fired at a police helicopter during efforts to end the siege.

However, Misgav and Flishman claimed that Huminer had failed to give any valid reasons for his decision.

"The appellant has been a victim of a great deal of disinformation," they wrote. "[Meshulam] has no interest in inflaming passions."

Ben-Eliezer program okayed by Knesset finance committee

EVELYN GORDON

THE government should return to the construction business, as Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is advocating, a majority of the Knesset finance committee said yesterday.

"The Rabin government will fall in 1996 if it doesn't find a solution to the [housing] problems of 140,000 people – most of whom are not needy, but are nevertheless unable to purchase apartments at a reasonable price," said Avi Yehezkel (Labor). "[Ben-Eliezer] is becoming a scapegoat, because the government won't give his plans full backing. We must return to public construction."

"The finance minister [Avraham Shohat, who opposes public construction] is making a mistake," agreed Rafi Elul (Labor). "It would be worthwhile for him to hear our opinions before he makes a decision."

Even Dan Tichon (Likud) charged that housing prices are rising in part because the Housing Ministry is not building.

However, some committee members disagreed that public construction was the solution. Ariel Weinstein (Likud) argued that the real problem was the shortage of manpower, and that this could only be solved by permitting the free import of foreign workers.

Ben-Eliezer, who surveyed his ministry's activity for the committee, noted that of the ministry's NIS 10.5 billion budget, some NIS 7 billion goes for mortgage and rent subsidies. The remainder is spent on housing, roads and other infrastructure.

He also told the committee that the ministry has some 35,100 apartments ready to sell, and another 30,000 still in the pipeline. Since the beginning of the year, it has sold some 10,500 units.

Purchase guarantees on apartments have forced the ministry to buy back some 22,000 apartments, at a cost of about NIS 5.4 billion, he told the committee, while an additional 18,300 units built by the ministry have cost some NIS 4.5 billion. He said 20,800 of these 40,300 units have been sold, including 1,124 in the territories, and another 11,800 are being rented. Of the 7,700 unsold units, 3,283 are in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Likud: Namir should resign

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Likud Knesset faction yesterday called on Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir to resign in light of the government's failure to end the social workers' strike. According to the faction's statement, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has proven that he is helpless and insensitive to the distress that has been caused, and that Namir should draw the necessary conclusions.

In the afternoon, hundreds of social workers demonstrated outside the Treasury in Jerusalem. The demonstration began in Sacher Park, and the protesters then marched to the Treasury.

"If we aren't paid [for the time we are out on strike] – and no one knows what's going on with that," said Lily Tussin, of Hadera, whose husband is also a social worker, "we'll take out loans, borrow from our parents, use up our savings. For a couple like us, the struggle is worth it."

Last night, Namir, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and representatives of the social workers met in yet another attempt to end the strike.

Atropine syringes to be replaced in gas mask kits

ALON PINKAS

NOW that the Home Front Command has completed distributing new gas mask kits to the general population, the Medical Corps next year is to begin replacing the anti-nerve gas atropine injectors in the kits with a more advanced, multi-purpose syringe.

OC Medical Corps Brig.-Gen. Dr. Michael Weiner told military correspondents yesterday the IDF will commission civilian laboratories to develop a pharmaceutical solution that would better address the dangers of gas warfare.

Weiner and senior corps commanders said the medical profile system may change, and veterans applying for jobs will no longer be required to give their military medical profile, because of misconceptions regarding the medical reasons behind it. For example, said the IDF's chief doctor, "Contrary to public misinformation, a 21 profile is not necessarily a mental defect; but in fact there are many medical reasons, ulcer for example, which fall under that profile."

KNESSET BRIEFS

Law extended on town planning

The Knesset extended for another six months the law which established special planning committees to expedite the approval of town planning schemes by sidestepping the regular process. Interior committee chairman Yeboshua Matza said he was ashamed to have to present the bill, which was forced upon him by the coalition. This is the third time the law – which was a temporary measure to begin with – has been extended.

Reservists benefits after second day

The Knesset passed a law granting payment to reserve soldiers who are called up for duty one day at a time during the year for each day of service beyond the first two. Until now, reservists received payment only after the sixth day of service. The law was initiated by Avraham Poraz (Meretz).

Opposition to bills on military censorship

The ministerial law committee yesterday decided to oppose private members' bills by David Magen, Dedi Zucker, Eli Dayan, Yitzhak Levy and Dan Meridor easing the restrictions on military censorship. Press Council head, attorney Haim Tzadok, justified the censorship rules in Israel's present security circumstances.

Gazans may continue cancer treatment

The army informed the labor and social affairs committee that 300 residents of the Gaza Strip ill with cancer have received treatment in Israeli hospitals since May 17. According to Health Ministry official Dr. Yitzhak Berlovitz, patients who are issued a guarantee of payment from the Palestinian self-governing authority, will continue to be treated in Israel according to the same terms as before autonomy.

Dan Izenberg

Bezek workers vandalize ministry

JUDY SIEGEL

DOZENS of Bezek employees broke into Communications Ministry offices in Tel Aviv yesterday morning, damaging documents and property. The workers claimed it was a protest against the ministry's signing of a new Bezek general license.

Bezek's management denounced the disruption, saying that such actions only harm the staff's interests and the company's reputation. "Management will not allow workers to take any violent action; it will deduct costs of the damage from their wages and deal with them in labor court."

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said there is absolutely no justification for the sabotage and violence, "except for their opposition to competition and the cancellation of Bezek's monopoly in telecommunications services."

She added that the incident proved the urgency of eliminating Bezek's monopoly.

Bezek management petitioned the High Court of Justice over the new license, and the court is due to rule next month. In the meantime, all action to implement the new license has been frozen.

Aloni said workers' representatives had asked to meet with her, but that she will refuse because of the violence.

Meanwhile, the Bezek board has approved a NIS 28 million bonus to workers.

'Hadashot' case: Gag order holds even if regulations not gazetted

EVELYN GORDON

EMERGENCY regulations do not need to be published in the official gazette *Reshumot* to be valid, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday, and newspapers were therefore obliged to honor the censor's gag order on the commission of inquiry into the Bus No. 300 hijacking on April 12, 1984.

The court was ruling on the state's appeal against the acquittal of the now-defunct *Hadashot* daily and its editors, on charges of publishing the fact of the commission's existence in defiance of the censor's orders.

The commission was set up to investigate the killing of two captured terrorists by the General Security Service.

Justices Mishael Cheshin, Eliahu Matza, and Dov Levin agreed that the acquittals would remain in force, since due to both the passage of time and the fact that *Hadashot* no longer exists, the state said there was no longer any public interest in convicting the paper.

Auction No. 18

to take place at ZOA House, (26 Ibn Gabirol) on June 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Viewing at Roots Gallery, 66 Pinsker, Tel Aviv May 31, 1994, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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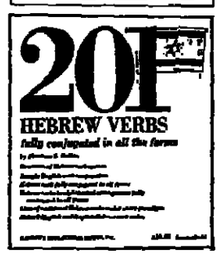
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